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OUR ELECTORAL SYSTEM.

WE do not know, as yet, whether the "heavy year's work" which, as Mr. Gladstone tells us, Parliament has undertaken, mainly in efforts to improve the social condition of Ireland and repress crime there, will leave our legislators any leisure or energy for looking after the political condition of the kingdom; but, certainly, that condition very greatly stands in need of attention. There is, confessedly, not much of either purity or freedom of election existing among us, and the tendency of matters is not in the direction of improvement. In fact, it is patent to every one that at the last general election "undue influence," of one sort or another, was more generally and effectively employed than upon any previous occasion. In some quarters, such as English and Irish boroughs, bribery, gross and palpable, was more rampant than ever. In others, such as the English and Welsh counties, intimidation was extensively practised. In Ireland—naturally enough, perhaps, considering the electoral traditions of that country and the excitable character of the

people—violence, rioting, and mob-coercion were the order of the day in both counties and boroughs. Mr. Bernal Osborne and Mr. Heron, though the latest, were not the only "popular members" who had to "fly for their lives" or otherwise escape the rather too pressing attentions of their constituents. In Scotland, even, the most independent as well as purest portion of the realm, elections are not really free and fair. Scottish electors don't take bribes, and have a trick of resisting dictation: the one, because the people are more intelligent and have not among them the old corrupt element of freemen electors; and the second, because intimidation cannot be extensively practised in towns, and in the counties the farmers, holding under leases, are in a great measure independent of their landlords. But Scotland is not altogether an electoral paradise, notwithstanding. If the electors there can neither be bribed nor bullied, they can be swamped by the manufacture of "faggot votes;" and accordingly this is done in not a few Scottish counties. The bulk of the people of Scotland, as all the world knows, are decidedly of a democratic turn of mind. This arises partly

from the influence of their system of Church government, which is essentially republican in its nature, and partly from their better education. A majority of the landlords, however, are Conservative; and, being unable to carry elections, even in the counties, by fair means, they and their agents have recourse to the very foul means of creating "faggot," or fictitious, votes; which is managed after this fashion:—In the county of Selkirk, say, where parties are pretty evenly balanced, a landlord splits up a field or two into such portions as will each qualify for a vote; these portions undergo a process of fictitious sale to persons who do not reside in the district and have no connection whatever therewith, but who can be depended upon for polling to order at election time; and who qualify in virtue of these fictitious proprietorships. The bonâ fide resident voters are thus swamped by interlopers whose qualification is a mere legal figment, and who have no soul, politically, to call their own. The manufacture of faggot votes was wont to be practised by both Tories and Liberals; but is now, it is alleged, alone in vogue



"THE DAINTY APPRENTICE."—(FROM A PICTURE BY F. WIESCHEDRINK.)

with the former, who, but for the aid of such votes, would be unable, probably, to return even one of the very few members they can count from Scotland.

It thus appears that in no part of the three kingdoms are elections of members of Parliament at once pure and free. Nor are municipal elections—in England, at all events—in better plight. Indeed, in most boroughs municipal contests are used as means for working Parliamentary elections. The law forbids bribery in Parliamentary elections; but "a consideration" given for a municipal vote may be made to carry a Parliamentary one too; and, of course, this is extensively done. The choice of local parliaments being thus made to bear upon the selection of imperial legislators, reforms, to be effectual, must strike at improper practices as affecting both. Hence the necessity of coupling Parliamentary and municipal elections in the inquiries made by the Committee of the House of Commons presided over by Lord Hartington, whose report has suggested these remarks.

We have never had any faith in the efficacy of penal enactments for extirpating bribery and preventing other improper practices at elections, and are, therefore, not surprised to learn from the Committee's report that the latest effort in this direction—Mr. Disraeli's Corrupt Practices Prevention Act—has as signally failed to attain its object as all previous legislation on the subject. It has merely created an expensive and cumbersome machinery for ascertaining what everybody knew before; and that is all. In preventing corruption, the Corrupt Practices Prevention Act has been totally inefficacious, while it has saddled the innocent with heavy costs to detect the guilt of the peccant. Mr. Disraeli's enactment created three processes for the detection and punishment of corrupt practices:—First, there is the inquiry and report of a Judge, which settles nothing, save the validity of the particular election inquired into; second, there is the inquiry and report of a Royal Commission, which, as far as appears, settles nothing at all; and, third, there is to be a criminal prosecution of bribers, which, whatever it may settle, will evidently not settle corruption or extirpate corruptors.

For intimidation—perhaps, after all, the worst form of undue influence, because the most galling as well as most difficult to prove—Mr. Disraeli's legislation provided no remedy whatever; indeed, did not attempt to do so. The man who sells his vote, if he be detected and punished, has at least the satisfaction of knowing that he has received his price—that he has had the *quid pro quo*. If to be bribed be a pleasure, the bribee, when suffering for his peccadillo, can comfort himself with the reflection that he has been blessed.

The victim of intimidation, actual or implied, real or only apprehended, has no such slender consolation as even that. He suffers a treble wrong: he forfeits his own self-respect as well as the respect of his neighbours; and ten chances to one he never receives the advantages he expected if he voted against his conscience in the hope of benefits to come; and may have been only frightened by a phantom if actuated by terror of impending evil. Any way, he is much more truly deserving of sympathy and protection than the mean bribe-taker; for he almost invariably plays his part unwillingly. And yet for his case the law makes no provision; it yields him neither protection nor redress. It is true that, as the Committee state, to prove intimidation is most difficult, if not impossible; and for that very reason we hold it to be the worst blot on our every way blurred electoral escutcheon. Intimidation may be practised in many different ways, through diverse agencies, and may be made to tell on numerous and distinct motives. There is the intimidation of workmen by masters, of tradesmen by customers, of tenants by landlords, of parishioners by parsons, and of working men by each other. Through all these channels, and others besides, does this abomination creep into and vitiate the body politic; and for so gigantic, and yet insidious, a disease it is of the last importance that a cure should be found, if we would save the political tree from gangrene from root to branch.

Can such remedy be found? We think so; and are persuaded that Lord Hartington's Committee, in recommending secret voting, have hit upon the most immediately effectual, though it may not be the sole, cure for the disease of electoral corruption, whether arising from bribery or from intimidation. We have so often argued this question that we need not again go over the whole ground. The matter is practically settled: vote by ballot we certainly shall have in this country ere long. If not this Session of Parliament, then the next; assuredly before the time for another general election comes round. Of course we look for opposition. So great a reform is not likely to be carried *nem. con.* We shall have the old stock arguments against the ballot paraded again. That was plainly foreshadowed in the debate on Mr. Leatham's motion the other day. But these sophisms are easily answered, and are pretty sure to be disregarded. One pet plea is now practically gone from the opponents of secret voting: they can no longer argue that, the franchise being a trust, it should be exercised openly. Thanks to the Conservative "leap in the dark," every citizen who desires a vote can obtain one; and so the trust theory disappears, for when all qualified citizens possess the suffrage themselves, there can be neither trustees nor trusters. That argument, moreover, always was unsound, because it proved too much—for the purposes of those who adduced it, that is, if the franchise be a trust held by the elector on behalf of the non-elect, and if the latter be entitled to know how the former votes, then he must be presumed to be capable of judging as to the wisdom of the elector's vote; and con-

sequently must be capable of voting himself. This plea, therefore, was never one against the ballot, but a very strong argument in favour of extension of the suffrage.

But it is needless to discuss the matter now. The question is settled, and the adoption of the ballot is merely an affair of time and convenience. We have thus a clear prospect of the introduction of one remedy for electoral corruption. For other, and it may be higher, cures we may reasonably look to the diffusion of knowledge consequent on the adoption of a really national system of education. The example of Scotland is valuable as well as encouraging here; when Englishmen and Irishmen are as well educated as Scotsmen, they will, perhaps, be as politically pure, and—with the help of the ballot—as independent.

"THE DAINTY APPRENTICE."

THIS is one of those pictures which at once suggests the similarity between some of the aspects of German and of English life and character. But for its more quaint surroundings, the scene might be the home of a British mechanic in some country town; and assuredly there is something of English expression about the man himself as well as the two boys. It is just one of those scenes that interest the general visitors to a picture-gallery, and is sure to draw around it an appreciative group who thoroughly enter into the story it is designed to tell; and we believe that our readers will appreciate its homely humour and the artistic perception displayed in the various shades of character exhibited by the actors in the little drama.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Emperor has addressed a letter to M. Emile Ollivier, in which he states that the time has come when the French Senate ought to co-operate in the most efficacious manner with the new constitutional régime. A *Senatus Consultum* is therefore to be prepared, dividing the legislative power between the two Chambers. The exclusive prerogatives hitherto enjoyed by the Senate are thus taken away from it. It had been expected in Paris that the Emperor would sanction this constitutional reform, though great opposition is believed to have been made to it by the reactionary party.

The *Français* states that it is the intention of the Ministry to suppress absolutely the *Senatus Consultum*, and to preserve only two legislative principles—namely, the plebiscite and the public law. The Civil List will be fixed by a bill at the commencement of each reign. It is stated that the resolutions of the Ministry will be communicated on Friday to the Senate. The *Temps*, the *Patrie*, and other journals mention a report that M. Rouher, the President of the Senate, has sent in his resignation.

According to the *Patrie*, the Pope has refused to admit a representative of France to the Oecumenical Council. Another French journal, the *Pays*, makes the same announcement. It is stated, meanwhile, that the French Government has itself determined to take no further action in the matter. M. Banneville, the French Ambassador at Rome, is now in Paris, for the purpose, as is supposed, of receiving instructions from his Government in reference to its Roman policy.

In Monday's sitting of the Corps Législatif M. Emile Ollivier, replying to M. Jules Favre and other deputies, announced that the Imperial Procureurs would in future address quarterly political reports to the Keeper of the Seals, instead of to the territorial military commanders, as heretofore. The Minister of Public Works, replying to M. Morny, said that the Cabinet had decided to propose the abrogation of article 4 of the *Senatus Consultum*, relative to the mode of granting concessions for great public works. On Wednesday, in answer to an interpellation of Count Keratry, General Lebauf, the Minister of War, declared that the Government would energetically maintain the Garde Mobile, on the ground that a defensive policy did not imply a defensive strategy, and that it was necessary to be always ready. General Lebauf opposed an extension of the permission for soldiers to marry and a reduction of the army contingent as inopportune. The maintenance of the Imperial Guard, he said, was necessary as a reserve. M. Garnier-Pagès asked if the Mobile Guard would serve to diminish the effective army, but the Minister of War replied in the negative. The Chamber afterwards rejected Count Keratry's proposals to examine into the expediency of retaining the Mobile Guard, and of effecting various modifications in the French military organisation.

The extensive ironworks at Creuzot have again been stopped by a combined strike of the miners. The movement, organised by M. Assy, is said to be of a political character. A detachment of troops has been sent to preserve order.

SPAIN.

An extraordinary scene occurred in the Cortes at two o'clock on Sunday morning, on the vote being taken on the Unionists' amendment to Figuerola's new loan bill. The Ministry had made it a Cabinet question; and Prim expressed astonishment at the opposition of the Unionists, concluding thus:—"Radicals who respect me, follow me to the vote. Since the Union Liberals give us battle, let us defend ourselves." Terrific Radical applause followed, many of the Deputies shaking Prim's hand, and others embracing him. The Unionists laughed, and the Republicans were silent, while Topete left the Ministerial bench amid applause. The Unionists' amendment was rejected by 123 to 117. Admiral Topete afterwards tendered his resignation, which was accepted by the Regent, M. Beranger being appointed Minister of Marine. The Unionist functionaries who are not members of the Cortes will generally retain their posts, but those who are both deputies and functionaries have resigned. Negotiations are being carried on for the restoration of harmony between the Unionists and the Radicals.

The Regent Serrano maintains great reserve in the present crisis, and keeps strictly within his own functions as the responsible chief of the State. He appears to be animated by a conciliatory spirit, and accepts the resolutions of the Cabinet with the object of lessening the gravity and the possible consequences of a rupture with the Unionists. The Radicals hoped that the attitude of the Regent would prevent the rupture from becoming definitive. In the sitting of the Cortes on Tuesday evening the financial bill of Senor Figuerola was passed by 129 against 74 votes. The Unionists abstained from voting. The Ministry have decided to suppress the greater part of the posts of those functionaries who have resigned. It is expected that the proceedings against the Duke of Montpensier will result in the declaration that Don Enrique de Bourbon voluntarily killed himself.

SWITZERLAND.

A diplomatic note has been received by the Federal Council, from the Papal Government, complaining of an obnoxious manifestation against the Catholic religion which was lately made at Basle.

ITALY.

General Ecoffier, Prefect of Ravenna, has been assassinated by an inspector of police. From Ministerial explanations given in the Italian Chamber, in reply to a question asked, it appears that the crime did not arise from political motives. The inspector, at the request of General Ecoffier, was to be transferred to another post. He addressed a request to the Ministry that this order might be revoked. His request was refused, and to this circumstance the tragedy appears to be due.

ROME.

On the 18th inst. a mass was celebrated in the Church of Santa Maria Transpontina for the repose of the soul of the late Count de Montalembert. It is stated that a service, at which Mgr. Dupanloup would have officiated, was originally intended, but that it was forbidden by the Pope. An unpleasant impression having thereby been produced, his Holiness ordered a mass to be performed by an Italian Bishop, and was himself present at the ceremony.

AUSTRIA.

Herr Giskra, the Minister of the Interior, has left the Austrian Cabinet because it has decided that the measure for electoral reform shall not be brought forward during the present Session of the Reichsrath. His resignation has been accepted by the Emperor.

In Wednesday's sitting of the Lower House the debate on the Budget commenced; and on the War Estimates being brought forward, Herr Mayerhoffer moved a resolution urging the Government to effect still greater savings in the estimates, and also to endeavour to prevail upon the European Powers to effect a general disarmament. The motion was supported by several members, but was ultimately rejected by 64 votes against 53.

Troubles have again broken out in Dalmatia. The concessions made by the Austrian Government have, far from exciting the gratitude and conciliating the goodwill of those lately in rebellion, only stimulated them to a more insolent and swaggering pretension, and to an open defiance of all authority. A party of gendarmes dispatched to the village of Pobori to execute a search-warrant were repulsed with force, and three dangerously wounded. The iron blockhouses which the Austrians had ordered to be sent back to Vienna have been again called for, and the road from Risano to Dradjaf will now be secured along the entire length by a chain of forts. It is well known that Russian influence is no stranger to this movement, and the Montenegrins are, this time at least, frank enough to admit that they are prepared to side with the insurgents.

An international exhibition at Vienna is proposed for next year, and a deputation from the Vienna Chamber of Commerce has taken steps to obtain the sanction of the Austrian Government to the scheme. The Minister of Commerce gave the deputation some encouragement, but the Minister of Finance told the members that international exhibitions had had their day. Ultimately he promised that the Government would take the matter into consideration.

THE UNITED STATES.

The Senate's Finance Committee have agreed to report adversely on Mr. Sumner's Bill for the resumption of specie payments in January, 1871. The Senate's Committee on Foreign Relations recommend the rejection of the treaty for the purchase of the island of St. Thomas. A resolution has been introduced in the Senate to provide for a Government survey of the proposed Tehuantepec Ship Canal and for the encouragement of the project. Carl Schurz has made a speech in the Senate strongly opposing the resolutions offered proposing the re-establishment of military rule and the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act in Georgia. Carl Schurz declared that this proposition embodied a wanton and flagrant usurpation.

CANADA.

A resolution in favour of an independent action of the Dominion, subject to the assent of the Crown, relative to commercial treaties with foreign countries, has been defeated in the House of Commons. The Government amendment in favour of concurrent action by England and the Dominion, and condemnatory of the customs union with the United States, was carried by 100 votes against 58.

JAPAN.

A telegram from Yokohama, giving news to Feb. 23, says that the Japanese authorities continued to persecute the native Christians, and were demanding that foreign missionaries should be prohibited from teaching the natives. It is added: "A bad feeling prevails towards foreigners in all directions, officials especially being closely watched."

NEW ZEALAND.

Intelligence from New Zealand reports great depression among the colonists. Hostilities had recommenced, and there had been several skirmishes.

FIVE OF THE THORNCLIFFE RIOTERS, who were tried at the York Assizes this week, have been convicted. Three of the men were sentenced each to five years' penal servitude, and the two others escaped with a sentence of fifteen months' imprisonment, with hard labour. The trials of others are in progress.

THE VICARAGE OF BURTON-ON-TRENT.—The Marquis of Anglesey, following the example set by the Duke of St. Albans towards the close of last year, in reference to the Vicarage of Redburne, announced to the parishioners of Burton-on-Trent some time since, when the vicarage became vacant, that he would, in his capacity of patron, take a nomination from the parishioners, if they could agree upon a suitable clergyman for the post. As soon as the fact became known, several clergymen offered their services; and the parishioners, having fully considered the matter, selected four gentlemen from whom their nomination to the patron should be made. These were the Rev. Joseph Mould, M.A., of Clare College, Cambridge, minister of Woburn Chapel, London; the Rev. Thomas Fostbrooke Salt, M.A., late Curate of St. Paul's, Bolton; the Rev. Frederick Asmodeus Maleson, M.A., of Trinity College, Dublin, Curate of St. Anne's, Birkenhead; and the Rev. Charles Francis Thornewell, M.A., of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, formerly Curate of Holy Trinity, Haberdham Eaves. The parishioners made it a condition of candidature that the four gentlemen should preach before them, a course with which Mr. Salt declined to comply. Mr. Thornewell also declined, remarking in a letter which he wrote that he had recently preached twice in the church, and adding that his principal ground of declining was a risk of the ordinance of preaching being abused through its being regarded rather as a medium for the exhibition of personal gifts than as a divinely appointed agency for the spiritual instruction of the people. Mr. Maleson, although strongly recommended by the Dean of Ripon (Dr. M'Neill) and the Dean of Chester (Dr. Howson), was considered to be not sufficiently strong for the parochial duties; and ultimately it was agreed that the parishioners should make their choice between Mr. Mould and Mr. Thornewell. The result has been that the Rev. C. F. Thornewell is recommended to the Marquis of Anglesey for nomination to the vacant Vicarage of Burton-on-Trent.

THE POOR-LAW BOARD AND ST. PANCRAS.—At the weekly meeting of the St. Pancras guardians on Monday—Mr. G. E. Watson in the chair—the official decision of the Poor-Law Board with respect to the late inquiry conducted by Mr. Montague Bere, Q.C., and Dr. Seaton, medical officer of health of the Privy Council, into the charges made by the guardians against Dr. Ellis, the medical officer of the infirmary of St. Pancras Workhouse, was received. The letter in which the decision of the Board was given dealt separately with the charges made against Dr. Ellis. The first charge was that Dr. Ellis had so arranged the ventilating apparatus as to produce a wrong impression on the minds of the medical men who visited the infirmary. This was combined with a general charge, that if Dr. Ellis had properly arranged the ventilating apparatus it would be sufficient for the purposes for which it had been constructed. Regarding this, the inspectors stated that they were of opinion that such orders and directions were given from a belief that they were right ones, and not from any wish to cause the state of the atmosphere in any ward to be foul and abominable. The Poor-Law Board said that they see no reason to dissent from the opinion expressed by the inspectors in respect of the first part of the charge. They equally acquit Dr. Ellis of the general charge. Regarding the second charge, causing overcrowding, by retaining as patients in the infirmary persons whose ailments could have been as well attended to in the infirm wards, they acquit Dr. Ellis of wilfully causing overcrowding. As to the third charge against Dr. Ellis, of "having warned cases of contagious fever in the general wards for the purpose and with the design of producing an epidemic," Mr. Bere and Dr. Seaton were of opinion "that there was no evidence to support it, and that it ought never to have been made." They equally acquit Dr. Hill, who, they state, "was very improperly charged by Dr. Edmunds with having conspired with Dr. Ellis to commit this criminal offence." The Poor-Law Board agree with their inspectors, and acquit Dr. Ellis of all blame in respect of the third charge made against him. They deem it right, at the same time, to express their great surprise and regret that so gross and unfounded a charge should have been imported into the inquiry. Touching the fourth charge, that of holding inquests without sufficient reason, the inspectors reported that three inquests had been held without sufficient cause. The reading of the letter was heard in solemn silence by the guardians; and immediately it had been moved that the document be filed on the minutes the proceedings terminated.

THE SCOTTISH LAND BILL.

THE bill introduced by the Lord Advocate to amend the tenure of land in Scotland is more interesting than most measures of purely legal reform, besides being of a certain historical importance. It puts a formal period to the old order of things, and expresses the general consent of the most conservative of all bodies that it is time the last traces of feudalism should be obliterated from the law of Scotland. The essential character of the feudal system in that country was finally destroyed more than a century since, when an end was put to the dependence of the vassal on his lord and the close relation of personal service. The rebellions of 1715 and 1745 forced the Government of the day so far to modify a system that, quite out of harmony with the structure of modern society, yet retained a dangerous vitality in the less civilised parts of the kingdom. Since then feudalism has been practically a legal fiction. The anomaly, however, has been almost as troublesome in law as the reality had been socially and politically. At this moment in Scotland every proprietor of land is in theory the vassal of some one else, with power to have any number of vassals under him; the superior or over lord is still entitled to fines or incidents at each transference of the land, whether to heir or successor, and frequently interferes to give a secure title to the purchaser. The opportunities for complication hence arising have been most numerous, and the Scotch have probably to thank their system of registration that their land titles have not fallen into hopeless confusion. Since 1845 successive Lord Advocates have done much to simplify and improve the system while retaining it; but it has been reserved for Mr. Young, in his first year of office, to take the wise, and perhaps somewhat bold, course of proposing to abolish bad practice by putting an end to false theory. If his bill becomes law, the ancient terms of superior and vassal, charter and seisin, will cease to be known in Scotch law, and the complete title of a landowner will be a conveyance, nearly as short and simple as a bill of sale, recorded in the public register of Land Rights.

The bill has more recommendations, however, than its primary one of giving our Scotch neighbours a secure and simple system of land rights. It may not be without effect on our own conveyancing, and it is, in various respects, an important step towards the ultimate assimilation of English and Scotch law, which every thoughtful lawyer in either country must believe to be inevitable. That two countries, or rather parts of one country, with common interests and social arrangements, and subsisting so long under the same Government, should much longer have different legal systems would argue an extreme slowness in law to adapt itself to the state of society. We venture to think the difference will not much longer exist, and that (to allow ample time) by the time England has the chance of obtaining a code it will be possible to make the code include Scotland. The commercial law and the law of trusts—which are of comparatively recent origin or development—present no difficulty. They are substantially the same in the two countries. The formidable obstacles to assimilation are, and have been, in those oldest branches of law which were differently moulded by the histories of the kingdoms while separate. It is plain that, on the removal of the archaic features of these branches to make them accord with modern wants, the laws of England and Scotland must rapidly approximate. The great step that is being taken here is the abolition of the ancient and deeply-seated distinction of law and equity. The step which the Lord Advocate proposes that Scotland should take respects the portion of the law related to land, which generally in a country is most peculiar and difficult to alter, as being most intimately connected with its bygone history.

THE RESULT OF THE TEST BALLOT AT BRISTOL is that 4502 votes have been recorded for Mr. E. S. Robinson, the local Liberal candidate; 2861 for Mr. K. D. Hodgson, formerly M.P. for Bridport; and 1835 for Mr. Odger. The total number of electors who resorted to the ballot was thus 8698, or within 61 of the number polled for the late Mr. Berkeley at the last election.

THE CHURCH AND THE STATE IN FRANCE.—Mgr. de Segur, a Canon of St. Denis, when giving the nuptial benediction from the altar of a church at Versailles to a newly-married couple, on March 17, addressed them in the following terms:—"You have just come from the majority, and you suppose that you have been married there; but let me tell you that at this moment you are not married any more than I am, and you will not be married till I speak the words. Civil society has arrogated to itself the right of intervention in the marriage contract, and the Church has tolerated the usurpation to a certain extent; it has permitted the State to regulate the material interests consequent upon marriage, but it will never admit that a valid marriage can be made out of the pale of the Church." The aggressive proclamation of this doctrine, just now, at the gates of Paris, by an ecclesiastic of Mgr. de Segur's standing, shows that the Church is in a state of war with the State.

BARRACKS, CHURCHES, AND GIBRETS.—A German newspaper, *Die Deutsche Post*, thus heads a recent leader, "Casernen, Kirchen, Galgen," in allusion to the fact that the present military despotism of Prussia, which upholds a system of most oppressive armaments, at the same time declares its attachment to the galleys on religious grounds, as being vigorously supported by the so-called "orthodox" clergymen of Germany and of other countries. Some of the Paris newspapers have also recently directed their sarcasms against the kind of Christianity upheld by the promilitary, pro-galleys, zeal, of so many professing Christian ministers. It is indeed a melancholy consideration that in Great Britain, and on the Continent, and in America, whenever there is any general discussion excited, in reference to such subjects as, for example, the continuance of slavery, the maintenance of the opium traffic, the palliation of Jamaica massacres, the prompt retaliation for some presumed insult to the national flag, the retention of the galleys, or the defence of huge military and naval armaments, then the clergy and the ministers of the Gospel, with comparatively few noble exceptions, are, as a body, either timorously silent, or are clamorously prominent in the defence of evils peculiarly antagonistic to the spirit of the benign Prince of Peace, whom they profess to serve. The same remark applies too generally to the so-called "orthodox" Evangelical "religious press." Well might the present Bishop of London recently denounce, at St. Dunstons, the inconsistencies and the mischiefs occasioned by these pseudo "religious newspapers." Nor is it to be wondered at that infidels and opponents of Christianity take occasion from these things to point out to the weak and hesitating the unreliable and self-contradictory character of those who claim to be orthodox guides. Thus is the good and great cause of Christian truth grievously damaged. Yet there is, happily, an increasing band of more consistent Christians, including the Society of Friends, the Moravians, the Mennonite Baptists, as denominations, and many thousands of members of other sects, as individuals. But when will the pulpit in general and the religious newspapers give a fearless and full Gospel utterance?—Communicated.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—About six o'clock on Saturday evening last a fire, attended by a great destruction of valuable property to the extent of several thousand pounds, and a large proportion of which it will be impossible to replace, occurred in the extensive premises of Mr. W. M. Watts, the Oriental printer, and printer to the British Museum and British and Foreign Bible Society, situated in Commercial-buildings, Gray's-inn-lane. The printing-offices and warehouses have only been erected a few months, and comprised a large and lofty building of five stories, filled with a valuable and costly collection of types, cast expressly by the firm for printing their Bibles in nearly one hundred different languages, and for the works executed for the British Museum. There were also on the premises the sheets of an immense quantity of work which had been printed, including a Dictionary for the British Museum, each sheet of which was, it is said, insured for £50. The fire was first discovered by some persons living in the back rooms of the houses in Verulam-street, which abut on a portion of Mr. Watts's premises, about one hour after the workmen had left their employment. The alarm was at once given and several engines were soon in attendance; but, owing to the building being surrounded on all sides by houses, there was some little delay before the firemen could get the hose fairly to work. In the meantime the whole of the building became a sheet of fire from top to bottom, the large quantity of paper in the lower part of the building serving to feed the flames, which burned fiercely until the falling in of the various floors served in a great measure to smother the fire. The flames also caught the newly-erected range of workshops belonging to Mr. Sage, the extensive builder, and which stood nearly opposite the offices of Mr. Watts, and before the firemen could master the flames a large portion of these workshops, with their valuable contents, was also destroyed. Several of the surrounding houses, inhabited by labouring people, were also much burned, and the contents damaged by fire and water. Of Mr. Watts's premises there is nothing left but the bare walls. There are various reports as to the origin of the fire, but the most probable seems to be that it arose from a defect in the flue of one of the drying-stoves in the warehouse. The amount of insurance will not nearly cover the loss sustained. Mr. Watts had only occupied the premises a short time, having removed there from Pickett-place, Strand.

TRIAL OF PRINCE PIERRE BONAPARTE.

THE PALAIS DE JUSTICE AT TOURS.

THE Palais de Justice at Tours is an oblong block of masonry of the Doric order, divided into two wings and a main edifice. The latter is ornamented with a portico, approached by a flight of steps at each side, and presents eight pillars supporting a heavy entablature. The hall of the court—the Salle des Pas Perdue they call it in Tours—is a lofty stone chamber with vaulted ceiling, in compartments, and is lighted from above. A gilt inscription on a doorway to the left marks the civil tribunal; to the right is that of the justice de paix, and opposite the entrance is the portal of the Court of Assize, where Prince Pierre is now upon his trial before God and his country. The inner arrangements of this court are as faultless as they well could be, but, unfortunately, it cannot hold more than 800 persons. Call up before you a square apartment lit by five windows towards the roof on one side—the wall facing those windows is covered with full-length portraits in oil of various distinguished French lawyers; in a hemicycle, something like the attempt at a chancel in small Roman Catholic churches, is an allegorical picture representing Justice, and underneath it—that is to say, directly over the seat M. Glandaz occupies—is a carved Crucifixion.

THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE.

The President, M. Glandaz, is the *doyen d'âge*, or head by seniority of the Counsellors of the Court of Cassation, the highest tribunal of judicature in France. His assessors are the Judges MM. Quénauld, Zangiacomi, Poullande de Carinières, and Boucly, and the *Juges suppléants*, MM. Gastambide and Savary, all Counsellors in Cassation. The magistrates of this court have, so to speak, gained the field marshal's bâton in their profession. They have nothing to hope from Governmental favour, and nothing to fear from Governmental frowns. The functions of Public Prosecutors are assumed by MM. Grandperret, Procureur-Général of the Court of Appeal of the Cour Impériale, and Bourgoigne, substitute of the Procureur-Général. The jury, generically termed "high," and which we should call special, is composed of thirty-six members, in lieu of, as in ordinary cases, twelve. The jury panel is struck, not from the ordinary lists of ratepaying citizens, but from the members of the Conseils-Généraux of the departments, the said councils being elected by universal suffrage. One jurymen is summoned from every department in the French empire, the Seine (Paris), which has no Council-General, alone excepted. They number in all eighty-seven. These gentlemen will cost the country a great deal of money. They come from everywhere—from Savoy as from Alsace, from the Pyrenees as from Corsica; and it need scarcely be said that the Government will be at the charge of their maintenance, and their travelling expenses to and from Tours. A High Court of Justice is, in fact, one of the costliest of judicial machines.

THE PRESIDENT, M. GLANDAZ.

M. Justin Antoine Glandaz is brother to M. Sigismond Glandaz, well known in the law courts of the French capital from 1817 to 1853. He was born in Paris on Sept. 26, 1800, and was quite a young man when he was called to the Bar as an advocate in the Imperial Court. In 1831 he became a member of the Council of Advocates, and ten years afterwards was appointed Advocate-General of the Court of Paris, carrying the same title with him to the Court of Cassation, where he became councillor in 1849. In August last year M. Glandaz was named a commander of the Legion of Honour, and wears the cross and ribbon on the breast of his official robe during the trial.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE COURT.

The arrangement of the court and the proceedings on the opening day (Monday) are thus described by a correspondent:—"At half-past eleven the High Court of Justice enters. It takes its place at the long table which bars the aisle, and then, when the confusion is somewhat reduced, a spectator can discern the order of the court. Behind the table, on the dais, are seated six old men clad in long, red gowns, and in front of each lies his quaint cap, encircled by a band of gold. Everyone of them has round his neck the broad red ribbon from which depends the cross of a Commander in the Legion d'Honneur. Behind these, in the semicircle of the aisle, is seated a crowd of provincial notabilities, amongst whose black garments the uniforms of a few high officers stand out forcibly. On the right of the court, on the dais, but at a table apart, sit the Procureur-Général and his substitute, both in red robes, but with lace of a different fashion on the *barret* of the latter. Below the dais, on the left, sit the jury, now all crushed together in a space unequal to their number, but soon to be reduced to comfort by the fortune of the lottery. Immediately in front of the court are a few privileged witnesses—Madame Salmon, the mother of Victor Noir; his brother Louis, with the wife and son of the latter; and an unknown gentleman, who is generally supposed, but wrongly, to be M. Fonvielle himself. Behind these, on the same row of benches, are the advocates of the Noir family, engaged for the civil prosecution—M. Flocquet, M. Bernheim, M. Leon Chapron, and M. Laurier. In the rear of these again, on the left, are the ladies' reserved seats, and on the right the numerous witnesses on either part. At the extreme end of the hall are the few and uncomfortable places reserved for the common public. On the right of the High Court sits the *greffier*, in scarlet robes and silver-laced *barret*. A little lower down, and divided from him by a gangway, is the empty box for the prisoner, in front of which sit MM. Emile Leroux and Demange, the counsel for the defence. On the left of the dock is the advocates' box, in which a dozen barristers of the court, clad in long black robes tipped with ermine at the sleeves, disport them after the manner of their kind. Beyond those again, and extending to the centre of the court, are the benches of the press, which are not large enough to contain two thirds of those who have made application for seats. A large gallery, crammed in the front rows, but empty behind, fronts the court at the further end of the hall. Such was the appearance of the Palais de Justice when the Judges took their seats.

THE TRIAL.

"No sooner were placed the six great officers, than up rose the Procureur-Général Grandperret. He put on his gold-laced cap, and took it off; then made his demand. In compliance with it, the *greffier* read the Acts forming and constituting the Court; and M. le Président Glandaz—a stout, hard-looking man, with iron-grey hair—instantly proclaimed the court open. Thereupon the roll of the grand jury, as it may be called, is read over by the red-draped *greffier*, and divers excuses are weighed and accepted. Eight of the jurymen thus obtain remission, and the remainder are invited to retire and choose amongst their number, by lot, the thirty-six members who shall definitely judge the case. Thereupon Court and jury rise together, and solemnly disappear.

"At twenty minutes after twelve the *tirage*, or selection of the jury, is completed, and they return into court, the thirty-six to occupy their proper benches, and those cast out to seek seats where they may be found, a task of some difficulty in the body of the building, but easy enough in the gallery. A few minutes afterwards the six red-gowns came in by their own door, and the High Court of Justice is definitely formed for the trial of Prince Pierre Napoleon Bonaparte, accused of the murder of Yvan Salmon, alias Victor Noir, and the attempted murder of Ulric de Fonvielle, *redacteurs* of the journal *La Marseillaise*, on Jan. 10. After administering the oath to the jury, M. Glandaz, President of the Court, addresses them from his seat. The eloquence of this high official of state does not seem extraordinary to an English ear, and his manner of speaking cannot be effective with any audience. A habit of error, so to speak, pervades it. The President reads his discourse; but this precaution does not save him from continual mistakes, of a magnitude sometimes which require the instant correction of counsel on each side. No one could look at the resolved and striking face of M. Glandaz without recognising the evidence of great power therein; but, either from affectation or carelessness, he seems, in his preliminary speech, to be very much behindhand in his study of the case. But that this

was not really the fact was proved when the witnesses came to be examined. After a long and able vindication of that exceptional tribunal over which he presided by right of seniority, M. Glandaz warned the jury to beware of the impulses of political feeling either one way or the other, and more especially desired them to guard against the generous feeling which would judge a Prince more severely than a private individual. 'If your sympathies go beyond what is just,' he said, 'they become dangerous, not only to the accused, but to that society whose interests are equally confided to you. What we have to pursue here is the truth, all the truth, and nothing but the truth.' Thereupon the *acte d'accusation* is recited by the *greffier*.

"Upon the assertions contained therein Prince Pierre Bonaparte was first examined, according to the French method of procedure. He had been in court some time, sitting with his hands upon his thighs, and making no sign of interest. His face was pale as wax, and the great torso still as a marble figure. Now and then a nervous moistening of the mouth might be observed; but the eyes were never lifted. When the name of Rochefort was mentioned, with the insulting words attributed to him, he shook his head heavily, but without other motion. When accused of striking Victor Noir an impatient movement of all the body signified his attention, but he now raised his eyes. Nevertheless, before the *acte d'accusation* was concluded the Prince was evidently getting weary. This wild bull of Corsica is not a being to support much waiting. Prince Pierre folds his arms, unfolds them, hurriedly twists his heavy moustache, but subsides again into the attitude of patience. His temper does not show itself even when the President questions him about that assault he committed in the House of Assembly twenty-two years ago. He expresses regret for his fury on the occasion. He raises a laugh by the utter scorn with which, in a few words, he describes Fonvielle as hiding behind a sofa when he himself, pistol in hand, is trying to reach him. But the poor bull, tethered at last, gets bewildered under the searching questions of M. Glandaz. The difference between having his hand in the pocket where his revolver lies, and having that hand on the revolver itself, is too much for Prince Pierre. He gets confused about a key, and at length sits down, paler than before, and evidently confused.

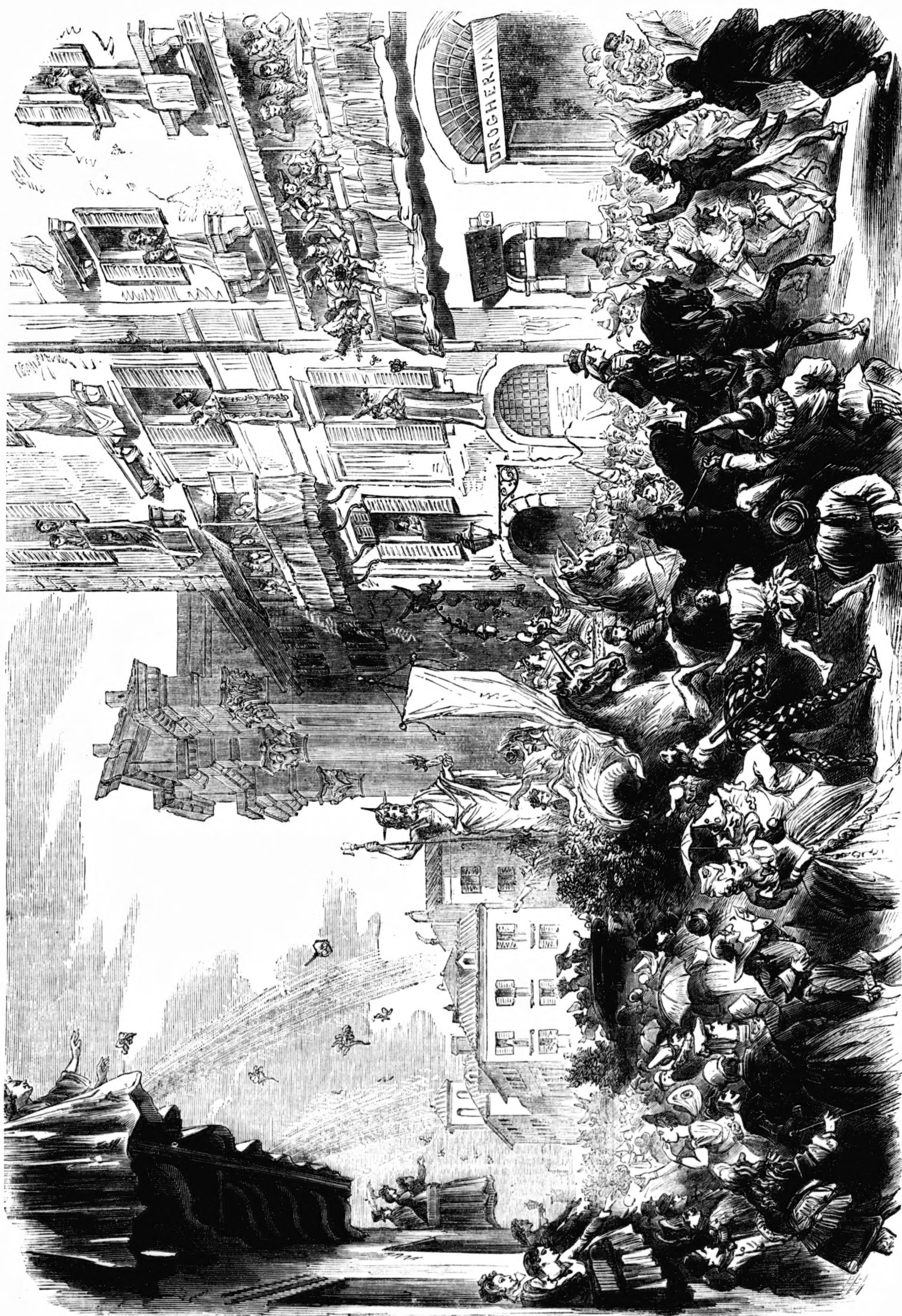
"The plans of the rooms at Auteuil, when the fracas took place, are distributed. Meanwhile, a few persons around the box talk with Prince Pierre, and laugh. Suddenly they recollect how grave is the occasion, and assume a serious aspect. M. Roidot, Commissaire de Police, is examined. He puts in evidence the panels of the wall where bullets had struck, the paletot of M. Fonvielle, and other articles. The only point worth notice in his evidence is the fact that an original deposition of Prince Pierre has disappeared, and a copy occupies its place. When the name of M. Ulric de Fonvielle is called there is intense excitement. We see a little man, of forty or thereabouts, force his way to the box—a little man, with round forehead, round eyes, and a cropped beard, covering all his jaw. A feeble face, amiable enough, but *impar congressus* against that heavy, bull-like jowl in the prisoner's box. M. de Fonvielle, in a clear voice, repeats his deposition already made. The accused listens awhile with eyes downcast, but the colour begins to return to his face. When the President asks why the witness went on a peaceable interview armed as for battle, Fonvielle replies, 'I expected to find an ordinary being, not an assassin.' Then the irritation of the picador is too much. 'The Bonapartes are no assassins,' cries Prince Pierre; 'you know well that the assassins were always against them.' M. Fonvielle loses his dignity a little. 'I would never have gone to Auteuil,' he says, 'without arms. It was impossible to forget that I was about to pay a visit to the relative of a Prince who had caused a man to be beaten by his servants.' Here the audience broke in with murmurs and laughter. M. Fonvielle went from bad to worse in his confession, and not even the Irreconcilables could conceal from themselves that their witness had not the beat of it in the minds of the audience when the prisoner bellowed, in his atrocious accent of Corsica, 'That man ought to be in the dock.' But Pascal Grousset, the next witness, who was brought from the prison of Ste. Pelagie to give his experience in the case, was, to say the least, not ridiculous. Before one word of his evidence had reached the listeners the Procureur-Général rose in his place, and threatened the witness with proceedings if he continued in the tone with which he commenced; it is but just to M. Grousset to observe that he seemed to care not one tittle for this menace. The President, after a while, repeated with significant firmness the threat of the Procureur-Général. 'I know not,' he said, 'whether such ideas and such words as you express are common elsewhere, but I cannot and will not have them here.' But M. Grousset, a handsome, Spanish-looking youth, continued without a sign of fear; and I could not but think that the prisoner listened to him, insolent and contemptuous as he was, with more respect than he had felt for any speaker hitherto. However, the end of M. Grousset's evidence, which had not any great importance in itself, was hastened by the Procureur-Général, who rose in a flurry and demanded the instant recommittal of this boy—he is but twenty-five years old—to the prison from which they had momentarily taken him. After a pause of some moments, the Court acceded to the demand; and, with a careless flirt of his hand, Pascal Grousset put himself between the two gendarmes who had charge of him, and strolled calmly out of court. With his exit the trial was over for the day."

The trial was resumed on Tuesday. One of the witnesses, M. Millière, being violently interrupted by the accused, claimed the protection of the Court. Several witnesses, M. Paul de Cassagnac among the number, deposed that they had seen traces of a blow on the cheek of the Prince after the occurrence at Auteuil. All the evidence on this point was, however, seriously shaken. For the defence it is alleged that a conspiracy existed to cause the death of the Prince, either in a duel or by assassination.

On Wednesday M. Henri Rochefort was one of the witnesses examined, and his arrival in the court is said to have produced a great sensation. After relating the circumstances which led to the challenge from the Prince, he stated that M. Emmanuel Arago told him to take precautions, as his Highness was "an infamous scoundrel." Upon being interrupted by the President, M. Rochefort said that he did not know the Prince; he was merely repeating the words of M. Arago. Several witnesses were examined with regard to the blow said to have been given to the accused by Victor Noir. More than one deposed that they had heard M. Fonvielle declare that a blow had been struck; but M. Fonvielle positively denied having used the words attributed to him. Among the other witnesses examined was the mother of Victor Noir, who stated that the deceased wore very tight-fitting gloves, and that, as they were found upon him intact after death, he could not have struck the Prince. Madame Noir was much affected, and great sympathy was shown for her in court.

ROYAL CALEDONIAN ASYLUM.—The annual general court of the guardians of this institution was held, on Monday, in the Scottish Hall, Crane-court, Fleet-street—Mr. D. Mackenzie in the chair. The balance-sheet for the past year shows the receipts of the institution to have been £3381 18s. 1d., and the expenditure £3127. The secretary announced that Prince Teck, G.C.B., had consented to preside at the fifty-fifth anniversary dinner of the asylum, on May 30 next. On the motion of Dr. Ramsay, seconded by Mr. W. Scott, the balance-sheet was received and adopted.

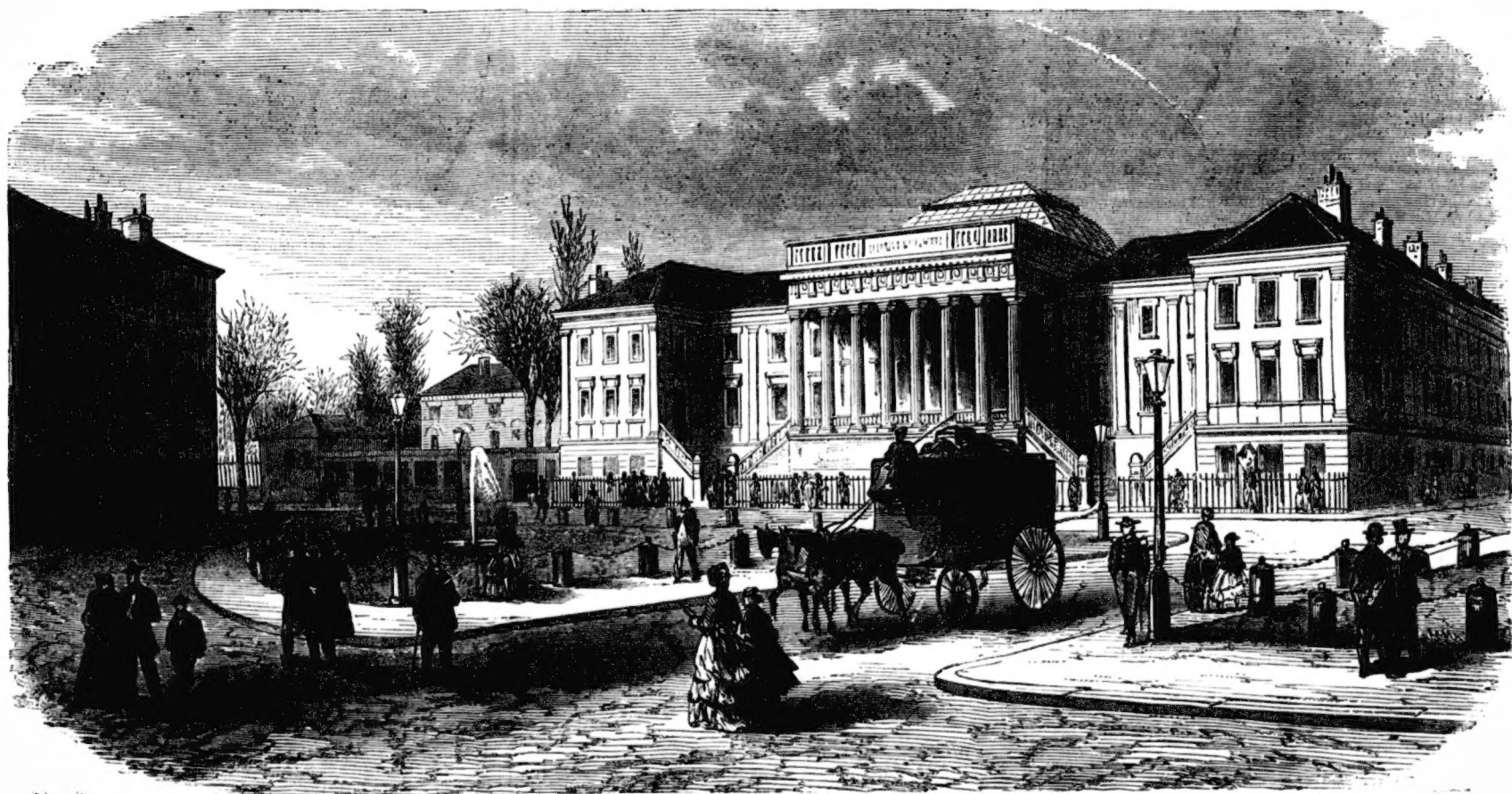
NARROW ESCAPE OF MADAME PATTI.—Upon her return journey from St. Petersburg Madame Adeline Patti (the Marchioness de Caux) was in great danger of a tragical end. At the Prussian frontier the Marquis de Caux engaged a special saloon-carriage, fitted with sleeping compartments, for the use of his party. The Marchioness had retired to rest, when in the middle of the night she was awoke by a sense of suffocation, and upon looking into the saloon of the carriage she found it filled with dense smoke. The stove which warmed the carriage had become overheated and set fire to the flooring. The whole of the party were at once awoke, and applied their efforts to extinguish the fire, which had already extended to a sofa in the saloon. Their situation was most alarming, their means of checking the fire being but scanty. The train was an express, and there was no means of communicating with the guard or the engine-driver. Happily, within a few minutes of the discovery the train slackened speed on entering the station of Bromberg, when the danger was made known and assistance was obtained to extinguish the fire.



THE CARNIVAL AT ROME: THE CAR OF NEPTUNE TRAVERSING THE CORSO.—(SEE ILLUSTRATED TIMES, MARCH 19.)



M. GLANDAZ, PRESIDENT OF THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CONVENED AT TOURS FOR THE TRIAL OF PRINCE PIERRE BONAPARTE.



EXTERIOR OF THE PALAIS DE JUSTICE AT TOURS.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 371.

MR. CHARLEY.

EVERY general election is sure to send to Parliament an oddity or two. The most conspicuous oddity returned at the general election of 1868 is Mr. William Thomas Charley, barrister-at-law, who was sent to the House specially to defend the Protestant faith and preserve the Church of Ireland from the aggressive Mr. Gladstone. This Irish Church was the lamb in the jaws of the lion. Mr. Charley was the intrepid David, who would save the lamb. When Salford succeeded in returning Mr. Charley there was joy in the Protestant ranks, and it was said that during the carnival that ensued a prodigious quantity of beer went down the capacious Protestant throat. This is, though, nothing new. In old times, Church and King mobs were always famous swillers of beer. Mr. Charley himself was exuberant, and his eloquence when he thanked the electors rose to a very lofty pitch indeed. He claimed to be "Heaven sent." He warned Mr. Gladstone that he would have to meet him (Mr. Charley) "face to face." In short, he threw down his gauntlet to our famous Prime Minister, and challenged the hero of a hundred fights to single combat. Well, the time came at last when Mr. Charley appeared in the House. We remember the day well, and the hour. We, indeed, saw the redoubtable champion walk into the House; and, to be truthful, could not suppress a chuckle when we saw him; for you see, reader, he was so unlike a champion. We had read those bouncing speeches of Mr. Charley, and that defiant challenge, and we expected to see a man of fierce countenance marching on to the arena, with solid, reliant, or rather somewhat swaggering gait. A man something of mine Ancient-Pistol style. But instead of this there came into the lobby quite a different person altogether. A man not of fierce, but of dull, vacant countenance, with curious opaque eyes, attempting, as it seemed to us, to peer into infinite space, but without success. Nor did he walk swaggeringly or even firmly, but with head thrust forward, and shuffling gait. Our first thought was, "Well, if that's the champion, our Premier will not have much work to do with him." But we would not judge him hastily. "We must hear him speak," we said, "for appearances are sometimes deceptive. He is not inspired now; let us wait till the afflatus come. That loose frame may become braced up; the opacity of his countenance may disappear; his eyes, now so dull, may flash fire when he shall, as he promised to do, really meet Gladstone face to face." And so we waited, and waited long; for Mr. Charley was in no hurry to prove his Heavenly mission, and showed no haste to make good his proud vaunt. And, of course, Mr. Gladstone did not challenge the hon. member to the fight. Mr. Gladstone had a great work to do, a work so absorbing that he probably quite forgot that Mr. Charley was there. Once or twice, though, Mr. Charley spoke on the Irish Church Bill; not specially, however, if our memory serves us, did he attack Mr. Gladstone. But his speeches were sufficient to enable us at once to take measure of the man, and to discover that he was no Heaven-sent prophet; and to feel sure that Mr. Gladstone, should he condescend to take him in hand, would have to do it only once. For those speeches of Mr. Charley were about the poorest, most illogical, skumble-skamble stuff that we have ever been doomed to hear. Of course, Mr. Charley can talk fluently enough. He is a barrister—though, by-the-way, he cannot have had much practice. Then, he has long been employed as a lecturer in defence of our Protestant faith; and, having been educated at Oxford, it is but natural that he should be able to speak reasonably good English. But his mind is utterly illogical; his premises are generally false; his reasoning therefrom absurd; in fact, it is not reasoning at all. "But he is a scholar," some may say; "for has he not taken a degree?" True; but what of that? Scholarship implies a knowledge of languages and, it may be, facts; but a man may be able to write and speak all the tongues of this babbling earth, may be a living cyclopaedia of facts, and yet be utterly unable to reason coherently. We have known many such. Indeed, a friend of ours once said that the most illogical men in the House are the learned men. And it is proverbially possible to lay so many books upon the brain that it cannot move. But we should say that Mr. Charley's mind is naturally illogical. Enough of the hon. gentleman's shortcomings, however. Mr. Charley did not last Session come into collision with the Prime Minister. We do not remember that he once directly assailed Mr. Gladstone; but, if he did, nothing came of the assault. The Premier had quite other foes to grapple, and had no time nor thought to spare for such small deer as Mr. Charley; and so the "Heaven-sent" could not fulfil his mission nor make good his vaunt. Indeed, all he succeeded in doing was to prove to the House, as he did very early, that he was a very puny champion—one rather to be laughed out of the field than to be met in serious fight. This was the reputation which he had gained at the end of last Session.

MEETS GLADSTONE FACE TO FACE.

But on Thursday, March 17, in the debate on the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Bill, which the secretary to the Lord Lieutenant, with wearisome but needful length, had introduced to the House, Mr. Charley suddenly felt that the time was come to redeem his pledge. After Mr. Chichester Fortescue had unrolled his frightful scroll, the stream of talk flowed on evenly enough, notwithstanding there was much in the speech of the Irish Secretary to rouse and alarm the House and excite the passions of the Irish members. Suddenly Mr. Charley, though not an Irish member, dashed into the debate and disturbed the even-flowing current. He boldly charged certain members and supporters of the Government with fostering agrarian outrage and nerving, by their language, the hand of the assassin in Ireland; and, warning as he went on, he said that the Government—meaning, of course, Mr. Gladstone—had grossly violated the Constitution, and, by carrying the Irish Church Act (by-the-way, it was Parliament, Mr. Charley, who carried that Act), "had dangled sixteen millions before the eyes of the Irish people, and now they (the Government) were surprised that their appetites for plunder were whetted," and so on, and so on, winding up with this remarkable peroration—"It (the Government) had plucked out of its socket one of the choicest jewels of the Crown—supremacy—and had cast it before Fenian swine; yet it was surprised that the swine turned round to rend their benefactors." This fine Scriptural figure was intended to call forth rapturous applause. But, alas for Mr. Charley! it evoked very derisive cheers and laughter, than which in such cases nothing can be more mortifying. When Charley dropped into his seat, the time for Mr. Gladstone to speak was come, otherwise, we may be sure, he would not have risen to answer Mr. Charley. And we think that it would have been better if the Prime Minister had passed by unnoticed the member for Salford's incoherent, vulgar tirade. The House in its own way had sufficiently rebuked him. But Mr. Gladstone is, as we all know, very impulsive. Mr. Charley had laid himself open. Mr. Gladstone could not help, as he passed, giving his presumptuous foe just one contemptuous wipe; only one. But it was enough, and more than enough; for even that was not needed. The House had by those expressive derisive cheers and laughter already done more than the sharpest sarcasm could do.

MR. VERNON HARCOURT.

Mr. William George Granville Venables Vernon-Harcourt, Q.C. (for such is the name and style of the honourable member), is probably but little known to some of our readers, and therefore a few words about him may not be wasted. The honourable gentleman comes of the Oxfordshire Harcourts, and represents Oxford city. He used to be well known—no one better—in the committee-rooms up stairs, where for a long time he had a large and lucrative practice. He is better known by clever letters in the *Times* on international law, signed "Historicus." Mr. Harcourt earned reputation by these letters, and when he was elected for Oxford everybody interested in the House of Commons felt glad. It is always pleasant to us who have to attend the sittings of the House to see a man of mark enter it, a man above the common level, one, as a member who is himself far above the common level said of John Stuart Mill, "who will

commend Parliamentary institutions to the world." But, though we hailed with pleasure the coming of Mr. Vernon Harcourt, we did not, of course, expect that he would prove to be a brilliant speaker. He is a lawyer, and lawyers nowadays are rarely orators; they are, indeed, too often dull, tame, and even tiresome speakers; but we hoped better things than this of Mr. Harcourt. If not an orator, we thought he would be an effective debater. Has he justified these expectations? Not quite; and yet his speeches are always good. The speech on the religious difficulty, with which he began the adjourned debate on the Education Bill on the evening of Friday, March 18, was an excellent speech. We heard much of it; we read it in the *Times*; and we came to the decision that it was a better speech on that particular subject than any other of the debate. It was bold, outspoken, clear. Mr. Harcourt understands this religious difficulty, appreciates it, and probed it to the bottom—which is more than can be said of most of the speakers. But the speech did not impress the House as it should have done; and this is the reason why.—Like all Mr. Harcourt's speeches in the House, it was not effectively delivered. Mr. Harcourt ought to be an effective speaker. He has knowledge, language, an imposing presence, and has had long experience. How is it, then, his speeches fall but coldly upon the House? Because he has no art. This is the secret. He has command of language, but he knows not how to modulate his voice. His words are allowed to flow from him monotonously, lazily, as if the speaker cared not how they came out. And his action is quite as inartistic. In one word, there is no rhythm in the hon. gentleman's speaking. The action and inflection of the voice do not agree—or, as we may say, do not keep the step. Then, lastly, Mr. Harcourt is cold: he does not seem to feel, and, of course, cannot make his audience feel. He lacks what Emerson, in his essay on eloquence, just published, sets down as a main requisite in an orator—animal heat; to warm himself, and, as a necessary consequence, his audience. Serjeant Dowse has too much of it. By its exuberance he would, were he to talk to us in an unknown tongue, set us all on fire. Gladstone, too, often "inundates," to quote Emerson again, the House "with a flood of animal spirits." Mr. Bright has this force in medium quantity, and always under perfect control; and this, among other more important qualities, tends to make his oratory so effective and charming.

DULL DEBATES—AND WHY.

The debate that Friday evening was perhaps the best debate we have had this Session; that, though, is not saying much in its favour, for the debates of the Session have hitherto not been remarkable. Some have dropped down to a very low level, and none have risen above the average debates of the House. This is not surprising. Mr. Bright has not, alas! been present. Mr. Disraeli, too, was for a time hors de combat; and is still not himself. Another cause of the dullness is the weakness of the Opposition. It is when parties are nearly equal in numbers that we have the most spirited discussions. When one party is confident in overwhelming strength, and the other proportionately enervated by the consciousness that, talk as it will, it can do nothing, there can be but little life in the debate. Moreover, there has arisen no question to fight about. No one disputes the necessity for an Irish Land Bill. The principle of Mr. Gladstone's bill is not opposed by Conservative landowners. The Education Bill was received cordially by the Opposition. The Peace Preservation measure all but an insignificant minority declare is absolutely necessary. No wonder, then, that our debates have been spiritless.

MR. MUNDELLA AND HIS SPEECH.

Mr. Mundella's speech was said to be the speech of the night; and, if loud cheering, and congratulations, and eulogy are sufficient to stamp and authenticate a speech as one of sterling quality, then this must have been a really excellent speech. But these tests are not always to be trusted. Some of the best speeches we ever heard evoked no applause, and congratulation and eulogy are often fallacious. We heard Mr. Mundella's speech; we read the report of it afterwards, and simple justice requires us to decide that, in our judgment, it was not one of a very high order. Nevertheless, it was a good speech; one of which we may say, where there is "a better there are ten waur." Mr. Mundella is, as all the world knows, member for Sheffield. He was returned at the general election in 1868, turning out Mr. John Arthur Roebuck, for which we owe him no thanks; for, though Mr. Roebuck had sinned grievously, in many ways his ejection was a great loss to the House, inasmuch as he is no common man, but a man with idiosyncracies, or specialities. He is, too, a courageous man; one who could and would often say things in the House which needed to be said, but which few men dared to say. Then what a peculiarly vigorous style of speaking his was! How clear, forcible, incisive! We were sorry to lose Roebuck. We shall never see his like again. Indeed, there never was his like in the House, and never will be. Whilst we say this, we are quite conscious of his glaring faults. But, as he was an uncommon man, we were sorry to lose him. But this was no fault of Mr. Mundella. Roebuck had grievously offended the Sheffield workmen; and if Mr. Mundella had not offered himself, somebody else would have been selected. Mr. Mundella has long been before the public as an active promoter of many good things, and much given to philanthropies—not of the "sugary" sort, his notion being that the best way to help mankind is to show it and put it in the way of helping itself; which is surely a good idea, if we did but know how to get it realised. Mr. Mundella's speech was, as we have said, if not sterling gold, good metal. There were many valuable facts in it—flashes, now and then, of sound advice—but little or no cogent, logical reasoning. This was its fault. We must, then, thank him for his facts, and reason from them ourselves.

A ROCK AVOIDED.

The great Liberal party was in an unpleasant position when the members assembled. It was a house divided against itself: the Whigs, if we may exume that ancient word, against the Radicals. And, moreover, there were signs of an odious coalition between the Whigs and the Conservatives to crush the Radicals—a thing hateful to every genuine Liberal as pork to a Jew. But it seemed inevitable. It was the so-called "religious difficulty"—to wit, the teaching theology in schools at the expense of the State—which caused this state of things. The prospect looked gloomy. Still, the cloud had, as we could see, a silver lining; and late at night there came signs of a change. Certain leaders of the Radical opposition were seen in conference with the Vice-President of the Council; then rumours of a cheerful character were whispered about; and at last it became known that the Vice-President, acting doubtless on orders from the Premier, would shift his helm, so as to avoid the rocks ahead. And this was done. Theology is not to be taught in school hours, nor at the expense of the State. The Conservatives are naturally wrathful; but when the Liberal party was formed there was no thought of pleasing them.

CONVICTION OF THREATENING LETTER WRITERS.—One of the writers of threatening letters in Ireland has been discovered, and a jury has convicted the offender. On account of a rise in the rents on the estates of Mrs. Pennefather, of Golden Tipperary, a letter was sent to Mr. Enshaw, agent to the property, threatening him with death, and Mrs. Pennefather was also ordered to dismiss him. A similar letter was sent to one Stephen Meagher, a tenant, intended to avert suspicion. He was, however, suspected, the letters were compared, and found to be in the same handwriting, while three postage-stamps found in his house corresponded exactly with the three others affixed to the letters. The man has been found guilty, and sentenced to five years' penal servitude. A national schoolmaster named Patrick O'Malley has been convicted at Galway Assizes, on his own confession, of having written a threatening letter to Mr. Thomas O'Malley, a landlord in the neighbourhood of Maam, in the county of Galway. The prisoner, having been arrested on suspicion, confessed that he had written the letter, at the request of a man named Connolly, who gave him 5s. in hand, and promised to give him 10s. more. The letter warned Mr. Thomas O'Malley "not to raise the rents of his tenants, or to be prepared for the death of Hunter." Baron Fitzgerald sentenced the prisoner to five years' penal servitude; and he was subsequently sent before the grand jury to give evidence against Connolly.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

The High Court of Justice Bill, Appellate Jurisdiction Bill, and Colonial Bill were read the second time; and the Naturalisation Bill, East India (Laws and Regulations) Bill, and Churchwardens' Eligibility Bill were passed their final stage.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.
THE EDUCATION BILL.

The adjourned debate on the Government Education Bill was resumed by Mr. V. HARCOURT, who avowed his determination to support the amendment of Mr. Dixon, on the ground that the bill contravened the doctrine of religious equality and struck a blow at the principle of political justice.

Sir C. ADDERLEY pronounced the bill a rational measure, acceptable to the nation, inasmuch as it made use of the existing system, which thirty years' efforts and a vast expenditure had created.

Sir H. HOARE described the bill as having been prepared to conciliate the Opposition. Its effect would be to secure the ascendancy of the Established Church; for he had no faith in any conscience clause for rural parishes, where the squire and the parson generally belonged to the dominant sect.

Sir SELWYN-IBBETSON gave a hearty support to the principle of the measure, and expressed himself favourable to a conscience clause for the protection of religious opinion in the nature of a time clause.

Mr. JACOB BRIGHT approved of the second reading of the bill, because he believed in the common sense of the Ministry and that they would be loyal to the people and not attempt to force upon the country a bill with onerous clauses.

Mr. J. HOWARD rested his opposition to the second reading on clause 14, which perpetuated and extended denominational teaching; and argued that it was the duty of the Government to provide a system of education for the whole people, without subsidising any religious sect.

Colonel BRESFORD declared the bill an irreligious scheme, framed to conciliate the National League.

Mr. H. RICHARD avowed himself no believer in conscience clauses, and adduced the case of the Principality of Wales, where, he said, the clause was no protection of the poor majority against the rich minority.

Mr. BIRLEY thought the bill a fair, masterly, and comprehensive scheme, well calculated to satisfy a great national want and solve the education question.

The debate was continued by Mr. Fawcett, Mr. Cowper-Temple, and Sir C. Dilke.

Mr. GLADSTONE expressed a hope that Mr. Dixon would not consider it necessary to press it to a division, or to exhibit the spectacle of disunion amongst those who were generally so concurrent. It was admitted that the quality and quantity of the education now provided for the people was miserably deficient, and the Government had undertaken the gigantic difficulty of endeavouring to construct a machinery which in the course of a year or two would grapple successfully with the requirements of the country. He denied that the measure would give any special advantages to those who belonged to the State Church, and he regretted that compulsory education was necessary; but he held that it would be impossible to propagate education without some stringent provisions such as those contained in the bill. The principle of the measure was perfectly fixed, but he was quite willing that any suggestions worthy of consideration should be discussed in Committee, including the possible substitution for the conscience clause of a clear and definite line by which secular might be separated from religious education.

Mr. G. HARDY said that, after the announcement just made by the Premier, it must be distinctly understood that, in voting for the second reading, hon. gentlemen were not to be considered as pledged to support the alternative conscience clause suggested.

Mr. DIXON then expressed his willingness to withdraw the amendment; but some objection being made to this course, it was put from the chair and negatived without a division.

The bill was subsequently read the second time.

MONDAY, MARCH 21.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

There was a general expectation that the sitting would be occupied with a debate upon the condition of Ireland; but, in the end, the matter resolved itself into a dialogue between the Marquis of CLANRICARDE, who moved for additional papers upon the subject, and Lord DUFFERIN, who consented to the production of some of the documents asked for.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE EASTER RECESS.

Mr. NEWDEGATE having asked on what day it was proposed to adjourn for the Easter recess,

Mr. GLADSTONE stated that, so far as he could gather the sense of the House, the predominant desire seemed to be that the longer vacation should take place at Easter and the shorter at Whit-untide. He hoped, therefore, that they would be able to adjourn early in Passion Week, after the Chancellor of the Exchequer had proposed his Budget, and reassemble on Easter Monday at night.

PRESERVATION OF THE PEACE IN IRELAND.

On the order for the second reading of the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Bill,

Mr. G. H. MOORE moved as an amendment that it be read the second time that day six months. The measure, he contended, was not required, because the ordinary powers possessed by the Executive, so far from having been exhausted, had not even been tried. On the contrary, they had been neglected and set at naught to a degree that had excited the wonder and indignation of every sensible man in Ireland, and thrown doubt and discredit alike upon the character of the Executive and the administration of justice itself.

Mr. CALLAN having seconded the amendment, Mr. NEWDEGATE mentioned that he was in possession of authentic private information that a large supply of arms had been furtively introduced into Ireland during the last three or four months; for what purpose anyone could judge. He should, therefore, be the last man to oppose any measure which Ministers might think it right to introduce upon their responsibility for the preservation of the peace and the protection of life and property in Ireland, although he regarded the present bill as a feeble and ineffectual method of meeting the existing state of affairs.

Mr. SAUNDERSON said he should cordially support the bill, although he did not consider that it went far enough; but, if Ministers found that it fell short of efficiency, it would be their duty to come forward ere the Session was ended and ask for increased powers.

Colonel WILSON-PATTEN unhesitatingly admitted that the Chief Secretary had made out a case for legislation, though he had underrated rather than overrated the gravity of the situation; for never in the history of Ireland had her position been so critical, nor had she displayed so much of the spirit which ruled during the French Reign of Terror.

Mr. DOWSE denied that Colonel Patten's description of Ireland was a correct representation of the condition of the country; and he predicted that the bill would prove to be as stringent as the circumstances of the case required, and a fair, wise, and just measure.

Mr. BAGWELL opposed the bill on the ground that it would not protect life and property, but prevent honest men holding their own.

Mr. SYNAN condemned it as monstrous and unconstitutional.

Lord C. HAMILTON charged the Government, and especially Mr. Gladstone, with having used language respecting the state of Ireland which had contributed to the prevailing discontent and disaffection.

The debate was continued by Mr. Maguire, Dr. Ball, Mr. Horsman, &c. On the motion of Mr. Downing, the debate was adjourned.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord KINNAIRD moved that the Coinage Bill should be referred to a Select Committee, but Lord LANSDOWNE deprecated the delay which would be caused, and Lord Kinnaird withdrew his amendment. The bill was then passed through Committee.

The Consolidated Fund (£9,564,191 17s. 2d.) Bill was read the second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

GIBRALTAR.

Mr. GLADSTONE, in answer to Sir George Jenkinson, said that the story of Mr. Bright having promised to restore Gibraltar to Spain was a fabrication.

PEACE PRESERVATION BILL.

The debate on the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Bill was resumed by Mr. DOWNING, who said the bill was an invasion of all acknowledged Constitutional principles, and its provisions relating to the press deserved the heaviest denunciations.

Lord J. MANNERS, while he did not shrink from the responsibility of giving a hearty support to the provisions of the bill, censured the past conduct of the Government, and condemned them for the delay which had taken place in the introduction of the measure; for, instead of being precipitate, they had been remiss and dilatory in their action.

Mr. C. FORTESCUE defended the bill, and claimed for the Ministry the credit of being the only Government that for many years had undertaken the task of ruling Ireland under the ordinary laws. It was easy enough to say that the measure was inopportune; but he held that, not being the "cardinal" measure of the Session, if it had been introduced when Parliament met, and before the Land Bill, the moral effect of both would have been destroyed.

Sir T. BATESON said the "message of peace" to Ireland of the present Government had been a "sword." They had "let loose the dogs of war." Never in his memory had that country been in so disorganised a state as at

this moment, and their coercion bill was the most stinging of satires upon their Irish policy. The legislation of last year had certainly produced one effect in Ireland, and that was to double the number of Orangemen in the north; and if the Ministerial policy were persevered in, he believed that every Protestant in Ulster would become an Orangeman.

The debate was continued by Mr. Kavanagh, Mr. Serjeant Sherlock, Mr. Murphy, Lord C. J. Hamilton, Mr. Agar Ellis, and Mr. Conolly.

Mr. GLADSTONE defended the conduct of the Government for not having legislated weeks ago, as charged by Mr. Henley, and contended that the state of crime was not such as to justify the assembling of Parliament in November, and that the returns for the month of January did not warrant the conclusion that there would be a considerable accession of crime in February and March. Referring next to the charge, that he and his colleagues had used exciting language out of doors in reference to the policy to be pursued towards Ireland, the right hon. gentleman denied that he had used words which could bear the construction sought to be put upon them, and that the Earl of Clarendon had never charged any class of Irish landlords with being felonious. With respect to the clauses directed against the press, he admitted that they were stringent and extraordinary; but they were meant to be so, for it would be idle to attempt to deal with such an evil except with energy and determination.

The House divided, and the numbers were—

For the second reading	425
Against	13

Majority for the second reading 412
The bill was then read the second time.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

BURIALS BILL.

Mr. G. OSBORNE MORGAN moved the second reading of the Burials Bill, the effect of which is to allow interments in parish churchyards accompanied by the burial services of Nonconformists, so that "God's Acre," as the hon. member phrased it, should no longer be a monopoly in the possession of the Established Church.

Mr. A. CROSS moved an amendment that it be read the second time that day six months. The hon. member said, as ground for resisting the measure, that Dissenters were gradually increasing in their demands, and that this proposal was far wider in its scope than any other that had come before the House. If it became law, he feared that it would lead to social scandals and to miscellaneous gatherings, at which no religious ceremony would take place; and he thought the justice of the case would be best met by the clergyman surrendering his right to read the service over the body of a Nonconformist, on receiving a certificate from the friends of the deceased that a religious service had already been performed in the place of worship belonging to the community of which he was a member.

Mr. TIPPING, who seconded the amendment, charged the Nonconformists with desiring not only to get their dead into the churchyard, but themselves into the Church. The bill was an attempt to select the tenderest corn of the Church of England for the purpose of trampling upon it.

Mr. CANDLISH supported the bill, and Mr. BERESFORD-HOPE opposed it.

Mr. M'ARTHUR reminded the House that the concession asked by the bill had already been extended to Ireland, where it had worked well.

Mr. COLLINS objected to the bill that it embodied demands far in excess of any ever made before on behalf of Dissenters.

The HOME SECRETARY recommended that the bill, which he regarded as a healing and conciliatory measure, should be referred to a Select Committee, and observed that it was an insult to the Nonconformist communities to suppose that they would allow any scenes of disorder at their funeral ceremonies.

Mr. HARDY was unable to agree that the measure was calculated to promote good feeling between Churchmen and Dissenters. The latter had chosen to quit the Church of England of their own accord, and built chapels for their separate worship, and, to be consistent, they ought also to provide themselves with places of burial, without trespassing upon the religious convictions of others.

The debate was continued by Mr. Hilbert, Mr. Walter, Mr. Cawley, Sir G. Grey, and Mr. Newdegate.

Mr. G. O. MORGAN, considering that reference to a Select Committee was only a "decent way of shelving" the measure, declined to accede to the proposal, and promised the House that, if they threw out this bill, they would have another far in advance of it next year.

A division was then taken, which resulted in the second reading being carried by 233 to 122.

Mr. BRUCE then proposed (amidst shouts of "No!" from the Liberal benches) that the bill be referred to a Select Committee.

A brief conversation followed, and, Mr. O. Morgan persisting in his determination to resist a Select Committee, a division was called, and the amendment of the Home Secretary was agreed to by 226 to 135.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Earl GRANVILLE, in reply to the Duke of Richmond, stated that Government proposed to adjourn their Lordships' House for the Easter holidays from April 8 to April 28.

The amendments to the Judges' Jurisdiction Bill were reported and agreed to.

The amendments to the Coinage Bill were also reported and agreed to.

The Consolidated Fund (about £9,500,000) Bill was read the third time and passed.

Their Lordships only sat for an hour and a quarter.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. BRUCE, in reply to Mr. H. Palmer, said that a bill would be shortly introduced to protect persons exhibiting new inventions at the forthcoming Workmen's International Exhibition.

The report on the Peace Preservation (Damages and Costs) Bill was brought up and agreed to.

PEACE PRESERVATION (IRELAND) BILL.

On the motion that the Speaker do leave the chair, Colonel S. KNOX, while supporting the bill as a necessity, attributed the present state of affairs in Ireland to the conduct of the Government and to their felonious acts in robbing the Church, stripping the landlords, and now attempting to destroy the liberty of the press. He defended the Irish magistracy from the attacks which had been made upon them, and insisted that they had ever been ready to do their duty.

The House then went into Committee on the bill, and clauses 1 to 5 were passed with a few verbal amendments.

Clause 6, which relates to the carrying of arms in proclaimed districts, was so amended as to exempt justices of the peace, persons in the naval and military service, and members of the Royal Constabulary.

On clause 7, Mr. G. H. MOORE moved that the maximum punishment for carrying arms without a license in proclaimed districts should be reduced from two years' imprisonment, with or without hard labour, to one year. The SOLICITOR-GENERAL for IRELAND urged that the clause left discretionary power in the hands of the Judge to inflict a sentence proportionate to the gravity of the crime. Mr. G. H. MOORE wished the sentence imposed by the Judge to be carried out; and no one who knew anything of the administration of justice in Ireland would believe that a two-years' sentence would be enforced. After a short discussion, in which Mr. Synan, Mr. McCarthy Downing, and Colonel French supported the amendment, and Mr. C. Fortescue opposed it, the Committee divided, and the amendment was rejected by 333 to 31. Clause 7 was then agreed to; as were also clauses up to 12.

On clause 13, which empowers justices in proclaimed districts to summon persons capable of giving evidence and punish them if they refused, an amendment was moved by Mr. CALLAN; but, after some discussion, it was negatived without a division. A conversation then arose on a proposition by Mr. FOWLER that the justices should only act on sworn information, after which the amendment was withdrawn upon the Solicitor-General for Ireland assenting to the insertion of certain words to meet the objections expressed. Mr. SYNAN moved the omission of certain words in another part of the clause, which, he contended, would have the effect of obliging a person to acknowledge himself the actual criminal. Mr. GLADSTONE opposed the amendment, on the ground that, if assented to, it would defeat the whole principle of the clause. After some discussion the Committee divided, when the amendment was rejected by a majority of 161 to 16.

Clauses up to 26 having been agreed to,

On clause 27, which gave the Government power to seize newspapers with seditious matter in them, Mr. BOUVIER moved that the Act should not apply to any papers but those printed and published after March 18, when the bill was introduced. The SOLICITOR-GENERAL for IRELAND consented to amend the clause so that it would not have any retrospective action. Mr. BOUVIER withdrew his amendment. Mr. SIMON contended that the clause struck at the liberty of the press, and moved that the words "treasonable and seditious" should be struck out. Mr. STAVELEY-HILL seconded the amendment. After some discussion, the Committee divided on the motion for omitting the words "treasonable and seditious," when the numbers were—For the amendment, 15; against it, 330; majority against the amendment, 315. Mr. BOUVIER strongly objected to the clause as framed, and moved to leave out the word "seditious." After some observations, pro and con, on Mr. Bouvier's motion, Mr. MOORE moved that the Chairman report progress, which was negatived by 265 to 19. Some further discussion ensued, and it was agreed that the Chairman should report progress.

THE CUNARD STEAMER SAMARIA, which left Liverpool on Feb. 26, outward bound and for New York, has returned to Queenstown. It seems that on the 14th inst. she broke the shafts of her screw, and since that time has been under canvas.

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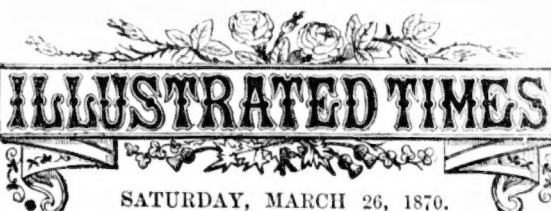
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SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1879.

SUNDAY.

A GREAT many ingenious things, more or less plausible and more or less contradictory of something or other supposed to be generally admitted, have been written about the devotion of the first day of the week to religious purposes; and much controversy has arisen upon the expediency of legislative enactments which either directly compel such external conformity in the matter as the law can enforce, or which is directly aimed at a similar result by preventing people from employing their time or seeking their own ends in ways such as they would be legally at liberty to employ on other days of the week. Unless we are mistaken, there are certain classes of people who are still obnoxious to legal penalties if they absent themselves from church on Sundays or on the great holidays. That public-houses are closed on Sundays at hours when they would be open on other days, we know. No place of amusement can lawfully be opened on Sunday; it is only recently that actors have been allowed to perform in Passion Week; and we have all had lately brought under our notice the fact that Sunday trading can be legally punished.

What has been said of religion in general has been affirmed of one of the capital institutions of Christianity, that of a day of rest—namely, that if it did not exist it would be necessary to invent it, and that, bad as mankind are, they would be infinitely worse if it were not for Sunday and public worship. These statements have always carried with them the assent of the majority of thoughtful minds. But, on the other hand, it has been affirmed that in a free country so large a degree of leisure as the Sunday confers does harm rather than good among the lower strata of the population. For instance, it has been affirmed that there is more drunkenness, and not only that—which some people think they can remedy—but more debauchery, on Sunday than on all the other days of the week; to which it has been added that the working classes would be better with two hours extra leisure given them on each day in the week, working on Sunday as usual, than they now are with Sunday wholly at their disposal. It is not our business here to discuss all these matters; but, clearly, the balance of serious and cultivated opinion in this country inclines to the view that Sunday should be set apart as a day of rest, and that its peacefulness and quiet should, in the interest of the large number of people who devote it to religious purposes, be guarded by legal enactments.

But it may be said that in England, as in all free nations, the great unwritten law of general opinion interprets and administers the written law in a great many cases. In relation to Sunday, there is a tacit understanding that the laws which protect it as an institution should be administered with strictness only so far as securing public decency is concerned; and there is a special jealousy of any sort of interference which presses hard on the working or small shopkeeping classes. Some of the warmest, and certainly not the least intelligent, of the advocates for the strict religious observance of Sunday have strenuously maintained that the best results are to be found in what moral suasion can do, and not in anything that the law can effect. Hence we think that most sensible people must regret the recent action of the Association for Enforcing the Law against Sunday Trading, as we believe the most sensible among religious men and women must have disapproved of Lord Chelmsford's bill. There is a great tendency just now to increase stringency of legislation in matters of public order, and of respect to accredited institutions of all kinds; but assuredly a considerable majority of those who are deeply anxious to see Sunday devoted to religious purposes, will be sorry to see anything done which looks like forcibly saying that no portion of it shall be devoted to other purposes. It is bad policy in times like these to do anything which has ever so remotely the look of bolstering up or fencing round religious institutions; and it is the unhappy quality of attempts of the kind that they stir up bad blood more than any other forms of social compulsion. The ILLUSTRATED TIMES is firm in the belief not only that Christianity can take care of itself, but that we ought with the utmost care to refrain from anything which can be construed into a show of protecting any of its established outworks.

THE REVENUE.—With a fortnight's more revenue to come in, the national receipts are already within £616,072 of Mr. Lowe's Budget estimate for the financial year. The expenditure is within the right hon. gentleman's calculations by £3,120,151, and up to Saturday last the payments from the exchequer did not reach the actual receipts by £7,521,079. The revenue from the Excise now exceeds the estimate by £341,000; from stamps, by £96,000; and from income tax, by £337,000. On the other hand, Customs have £622,000 yet to pull up; taxes, £129,000; Post Office, £380,000; and miscellaneous, £260,000.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY held the second Drawingroom of the season on Tuesday, at Buckingham Palace, accompanied by several members of the Royal family. About one hundred presentations were made.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES returned to Marlborough House, on Monday, from Kimbolton.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, when at Lahore, was offered by the Maharajah of Cashmere a shawl which had incessantly occupied 300 weavers for three years, and no such shawl had ever before been manufactured. As the Duke refused to accept so costly a gift, the Maharajah asked him to transmit it to the Queen.

MR. BRIGHT, accompanied by Mrs. Bright, left Norwood, on Friday week, for Brighton. Mr. Bright's health has much improved during his stay at Norwood, and it is hoped that he may be able, soon after Easter, to resume his duties in the House of Commons.

CAPTAIN SHAW has sufficiently recovered from the injuries he recently received as to be able to resume his duties as chief officer of the London Fire Brigade.

SHERIFF MACKENZIE is gazetted to the seat on the Scottish Judicial Bench, vacant through the death of the late Lord Barcaille.

MR. KNATCHBULL-HUGHESSEN, Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, was, on Saturday, unanimously elected chairman of the East Kent Quarter Sessions, in the room of Lord Fitzwater, resigned in consequence of ill-health.

FIVE PERSONS DIED at Aliphington, Devon, during last week, whose united ages amounted to 408 years.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF MIDDLESBOROUGH is found to contain immense deposits of rock salt, underlying the lower part of the Tees valley.

FEVER has broken out in several of the pauper establishments in the metropolis. At the school recently built at Highgate several children died last week, owing, it is thought by the medical men, to overcrowding.

JACOB SPINASI, who was to have been executed at Newgate on Monday morning for the murder of Cecilia Aldridge, has been reprieved.

MRS. ALBERT SMITH, the widow of Mr. Albert Smith and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Keeley, died on Saturday. Mrs. Smith was for some years before her marriage, in 1859, well known as a popular actress at the Lyceum and Adelphi Theatres.

THE MISSING STEAMER CITY OF BOSTON, having been fifty-three days out from Halifax, the underwriters refused, on Tuesday, to take any fresh insurances upon her.

THE BOLTON MASTER COTTON-SPINNERS' ASSOCIATION have refused the demand of the operatives for an increase of 5 per cent in their wages. The result will probably be a strike, which will throw 10,000 men out of employment.

THE INQUEST ON THE BODY OF JAMES RUTTER, who was fatally stabbed by his brother-in-law, Henry Parker, was concluded on Tuesday. The jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against Parker, who, however, is not yet in custody.

JOSEPH BAGGALEY, a boy of fourteen years of age, was charged at the Hanley Police Court, on Monday, with stabbing Martin Grogan, aged twelve, at the Burslem Theatre, on Saturday. Grogan not being able to appear, the prisoner was remanded.

VICE-CHANCELLOR JAMES, on Monday, made an order for winding up the Anchor Assurance Company, one of the numerous amalgamations of the Albert. In the Court of Vice-Chancellor Stuart an order was made for the compulsory winding up of the Cardiff and Newport Colliery and Ironstone Company.

THE TIDE IN THE THAMES at noon on Monday was so low as to expose some old pile tops under London Bridge, near the piers of one of the arches, and the passengers from Woolwich by the steamers of the Woolwich and Watermen's Steam-Packet Company had to be landed at the Custom House wharf, instead of being taken on to Westminster.

MESSES. SOTHEY, WILKINSON, AND HODGE have just sold a copy of the first folio edition of the works of Shakespeare, with the verses inlaid, and the margins of the title supplied, for £360, and an unusually fine copy of the third edition for £200, which latter sum is more than double the amount it has ever brought before.

THE BODY OF THE WOMAN who was alleged to have been thrown over Westminster Bridge some weeks ago by Charles Nobbs, a porter in the India Office, has been found near the place where the poor woman entered the water.

A CROWDED MEETING OF JOURNEYMEN BAKERS was held, on Saturday night last, at Bryanston Hall, Orchard-street, Portman-square, in furtherance of the movement for the abolition of nightwork and general redress of grievances. Mr. George How occupied the chair, and there were several master bakers and foremen present in support of the object of the meeting.

THE INSTALLATION OF EARL DE GREY AND RUPON as Grand Master of the Freemasons, in the room of the Earl of Zeland, resigned, is fixed to take place on Saturday, April 23, being St. George's Day. The ceremony, in which many noblemen and gentlemen holding high rank in the order, will take part, will be of an elaborate character, and will be performed in Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, where the Grand Lodge will be formally opened.

IRREGULARITIES IN THE CARRIAGE DEPARTMENT of the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, are, it is said, being investigated. One of the established clerks has been suspended, and on Saturday a late military clerk in the same office arrived at Woolwich from Dublin, in obedience to a telegraphic summons, and was sent on to the War Office. A great many of the writers who assist the clerks have received notice of dismissal.

A FIRE broke out, on Sunday afternoon, on board the Emily, iron screw-steamer, of and from Goole, for London, with coal and iron. The fire made its appearance in the after-hold, when the vessel was off Great Yarmouth, and continued until midnight, in spite of the efforts of the crew, who threw overboard twenty tons of coals and poured water down the hold. Eventually the captain was obliged to run the steamer on a mud-bank near Harwich, on Monday morning, and scuttle the ship.

A PROPOSAL was recently made to the Government of New South Wales for the establishment by an American company of a line of mail-steamer from Sydney to San Francisco, touching at Auckland and Honolulu. This line is to commence running on the 26th inst. It is expected to greatly facilitate postal communication between Australia and Great Britain.

A BARRISTER, practising in the Court of Chancery, on Monday applied to Lord Justice Giffard in support of a claim for £700 against the executors of the late Lord Mostyn. The sum sought to be recovered represented fees in respect of conveyancing, and other professional work which he had done for the late peer. The Lord Justice held that a barrister could not recover his fees, and dismissed the application, with costs.

THE GATE AT ROEHAMPTON, by which Richmond Park is entered from the Clarence-lanes, is still locked against vehicles; but a new gate for foot-passengers has been put up immediately adjoining the one which has been closed, and, as pedestrians are not excluded from the Clarence-lanes by the owner of the property, persons from London may now obtain entrance to the park without the necessity of going on to the East Sheen gate.

THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY CREW arrived at the Star and Garter, Putney, for exercise over the Thames course, on Wednesday. The Oxford crew has also put in an appearance on the Thames.

THE BRITISH INDIAN CABLE has now been successfully laid between Bombay and Suez, and the Great Eastern has returned to Aden, on her way to England.

MR. WILLIAMS, station-master at Tenby, while sitting writing in the telegraph-office, on Wednesday evening, was struck on the head by a piece of rock from a quarry in the vicinity, where blasting operations were going on, and instantly killed.

THE NAMES OF SEVERAL GENTLEMEN are already mentioned as likely candidates for the representation of the borough of Newark, rendered vacant by the death of Mr. E. Denison. The present Mayor (Mr. Karp), it is said, will contest the seat. Mr. P. Handley (who unsuccessfully contested the borough at the last general election) is also spoken of. In addition to these are Mr. H. F. Bristowe, barrister; and Mr. Moffatt, of London.

AN ACTION to try the right of ownership of goods supposed to belong to the Countess of Derwentwater came before the Newcastle County Court on Wednesday, where it transpired that the greater part of the recent sale of furniture belonging to the soi-disant Countess was a sham. No money was paid for the picture, which was sold for a thousand pounds, and about which there was so much comment.

A NEW VICTORIAN FLAG, which at the suggestion of the Admiralty has been designed as the distinguishing mark of the Victorian mercantile navy, has been formally adopted by the Government. The ensign will have five white stars on a blue ground, and the "jack," five white stars in the cross of St. George, which forms the central line of the pattern.

A DASTARDLY OUTRAGE was committed on Tuesday night at the collieries of Messrs. James Rhodes and Son, Coal Aston, near Dronfield. Some evil-disposed persons effected an entrance to the engine-house, set the winding engine in motion, and left it to exhaust itself. The cage was smashed, all the head-gear completely destroyed, and considerable damage done to the machinery. A shaft of men in the pit at the time had to be wound out by means of handspikes.

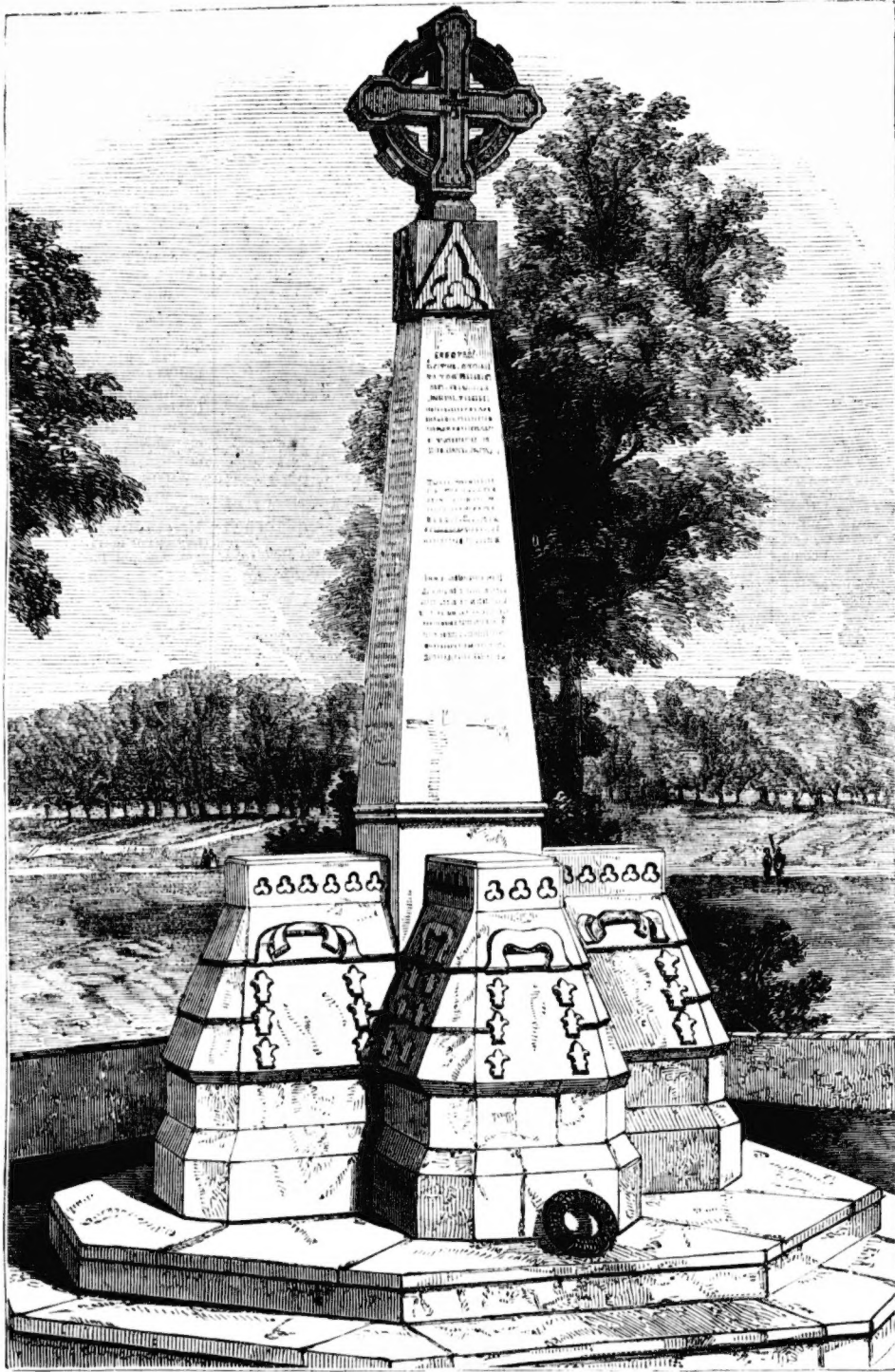
THE REV. MR. CROFTON, Protestant clergyman, has been fired at, at Kilbeggan, in the county of Westmeath. He had been visiting some property, and intimated his intention to raise the rents. When returning he was met by two men, one of whom fired at and wounded him in the shoulder. He rushed forward to seize the man, who was quite near, and the second man then fired. Two other shots, it is stated, were fired, but no further injury was done, and both men escaped.

MEMORIAL AT FUTTEGHURH.

THE memorial Church of All Souls, at Futteghurh, India, received its name, and was designed and erected, in memory of the victims of the sad massacre of 1857. During the terrible mutiny of that year Futteghurh, like Cawnpore, fell into the hands of the rebels, and was the scene of one of the most cold-blooded massacres that occurred during those troublous times, nearly every European in the station having been cruelly slaughtered. The bodies of our unfortunate countrymen and countrywomen, with those of a native Christian and his family, were thrown into a well, near the place where they were killed, over which a suitable monument has been erected by the Government of the North-West Provinces. This is shown in our Engraving, which is from a photograph by Mr. W. L. Caney. The church was consecrated by the late Bishop Cotton, on Feb. 15, 1863. The well, which is the grave of so many Christian people, was also included in the sentence of consecration. The present chaplain is the Rev. A. L. Mitchell.

THE ALFRED HOSPITAL, MELBOURNE.

THE foundation-stone of the new Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, was laid by his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh on June 6, 1869. It is designed in the Elizabethan style of architecture, very tastefully decorated. Contrary to the plan heretofore followed in nearly all large charitable institutions in the colony of Melbourne, this hospital will not consist of a series of buildings all joined together, but will be in six separate parts, at a distance of about 60 ft. or 80 ft. from each other. The six buildings mentioned below are an administrative department, which will be at the main entrance of the hospital facing north, towards the sides of which, and rather farther from the frontage line of the ground, are four others, called pavilions, for the reception of patients. The sixth building, which is immediately behind the first, or administrative one, is intended for kitchens, laundries, out-houses, &c., and will be covered from view as much as possible by the buildings in front and at the sides of it. All the six buildings will consist of ground and upper floors; and the principal one will be brought into prominence by an elegant tower in the centre. The whole of the buildings are intended to be constructed of brick, faced internally with dark bricks, tuck pointed, and relieved with white and other coloured bricks, and some of the ornamental work will be in Portland cement. This construction, it is presumed by the architect, will produce a very cheerful and charming effect. The pavilion walls are to be hollow; the walls internally and the ceilings are to be finished in cement; all the staircases and landings are to be of stone. The total cost of the building is estimated at about £36,664, of which the administrative block is computed at £6643; the four pavilions, £26,863; the operating-room, £316; kitchen and laundry offices, £2470; dead-house, £266; and the lodge, £105. The stone laid by his Royal Highness will form a portion of the administrative or centre block of the institution. The first contract embraces this portion of the building only. It will comprise a dispensary, out-patients' rooms, quarters for officers and servants, detached kitchen, and one pavilion capable of accommodating sixty patients. For various and forcible reasons the committee has resolved that the administrative department shall not be immediately applied to its proper uses; by this means accommodation will be secured to meet the necessities of about one hundred indoor patients. This hospital was founded to commemorate the first visit of his Royal Highness to Victoria, and his



MONUMENT AT FUTTEGHURH, INDIA, OVER THE GRAVE OF VICTIMS OF THE SEPOY MUTINY.

fortunate escape on that occasion from the assassin's bullet. When finally complete it will accommodate 250 patients. The whole will be carried out under the direction of Mr. Webb, the architect.

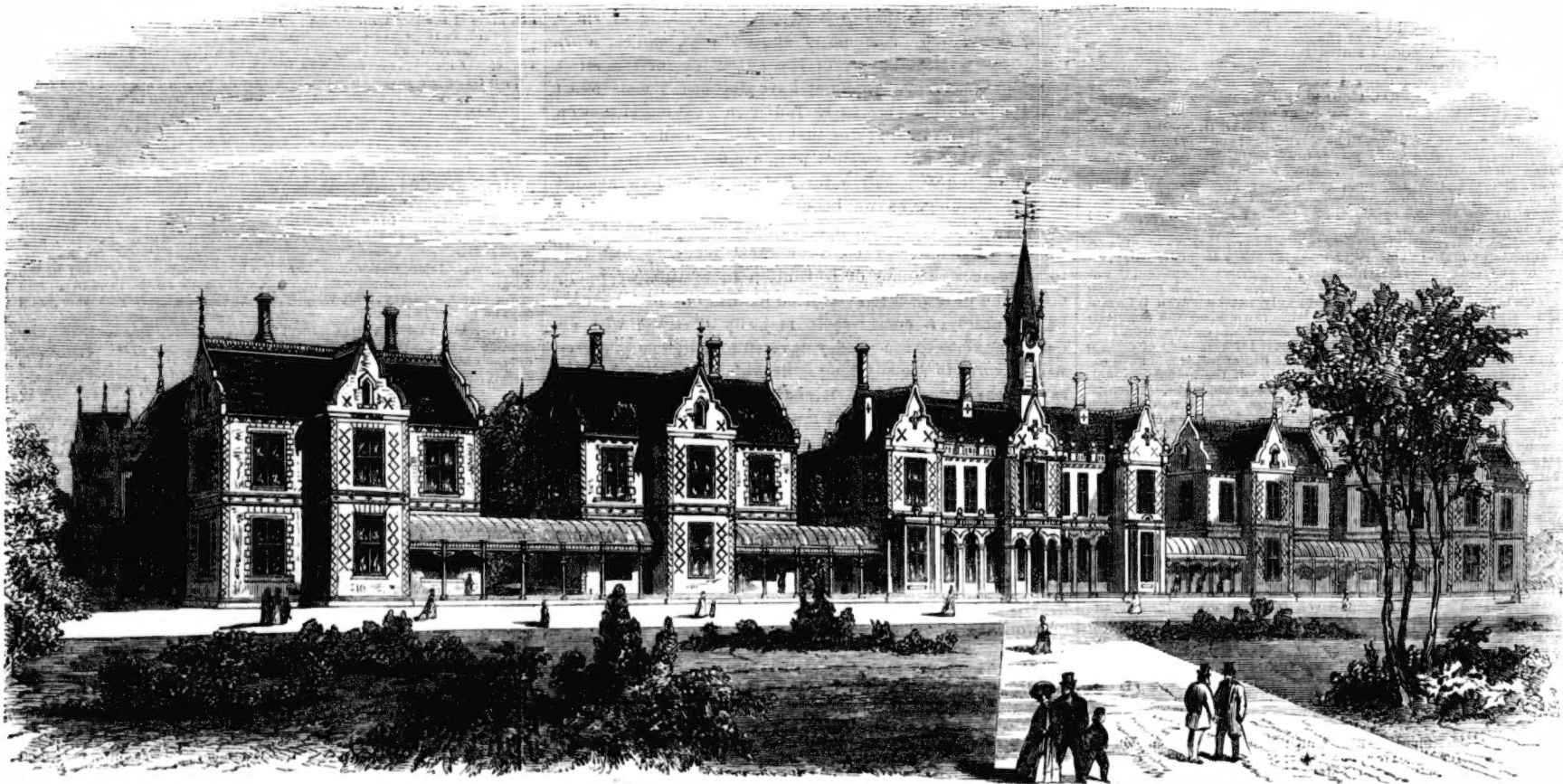
AN IRISH "HAULING HOME."

AMONGST the many peculiar social customs of the Irish peasantry there is none so racy and characteristic as that of the "hauling home." The priest has been consulted; the fee he is to

receive for tying the nuptial knot has been settled; and the last act of the little drama takes place before the altar of the village chapel where Pat and Kitty are finally united "for better, for worse." The marriage is generally a source of intense excitement in the rustic community which sacrifices one of its daughters to Hymen. But the wedding—understood in Ireland as the festivities which follow the ceremony—is looked forward to with deeper and vaster interest. The bride's father becomes fussy and all-important, as crowds of guests, invited or uninvited, cross the threshold, and stow themselves away in his best room. He has a welcome for all, his only concern being lest the walls should bulge out or the whisky run short. The naylor, whose life is a medley of jokes and bellows-blowing; the local postman, a circulating library of political gossip and domestic scandal; above these, the schoolmaster, of whose attainments the "bouldest boy" present has a secret dread; get comfortably ensconced in the little parlour, and beguile the time which has to elapse until dinner with grave and weighty discussions on the topics of the day. The bride, all the while, is either secluded with a few intimate friends, or— which is more likely—deeply involved in the preparations for dinner. The young bridegroom hangs about the premises, trying to affect an air implying that "nothing has occurred." Everyone knows the contrary, especially the young men, who, regardless of the probability that their turn will one day come, pester the happy swain with jokes that send the blood nimbly to his face. He submits to the "chaff" with a certain good humour—"put on," as the peasantry say, but not the less polite or tolerant for all that.

If the bride's family is well to do, the priest will generally be found at the head of the table—the magnates of the establishment and their prosperous friends being ranged at right angles to his elbows. The feast is long; the clatter of knives and forks incessant, if not melodious. Whisky finishes the repast, but is often supplemented by an improvised ball, Pat and Kitty, the cynosures of surrounding eyes, leading off with a reel or a slip jig. The piper blows himself hoarse; the fiddler indulges in semiquavers of doubtful quantity and precision; the fun grows fast and furious, and is prolonged until the hour strikes for taking the bride to her future home. With many kisses, with many tears, with reiterated farewells to father, mother, brothers, and sisters, she crosses the threshold. A car, sometimes provided with a feather-bed, to atone for the absence of springs, receives her. Lifted into the vehicle, she is soon joined by Pat, not ashamed to fling his arm around her unbodiced waist, or to redden her cheek with a modest salute. This is the signal for the departure of the revellers. On horseback, or in cars, or accompanying either, to use a Munster phrase, "as fast as their legs will carry them," the friends of the young couple set out for the husband's house. This is "the hauling home." Over country roads, by quiet hamlets and farmhouses, from which one scents the keen odour of burning wood, the little cavalcade, if the word is permissible, presses on to its destination. Boys and girls run in the wake, shouting lustily, and exciting the dogs, the pigs, the poultry, which rush from their lairs and join in the hubbub. At every fresh accession, the schoolmaster rises from his seat, waves his hat, and cheers with frantic vehemence. Cheers are returned; and the whole affair becomes a triumphal march, accompanied by the squeals of swine, the barking of curs, and the furious detonation of a hundred throats.

Pat and Kitty, seated side by side, like the lovers in Mr. Lover's ballad, are by no means insensible to the thickening excitement. Pat acknowledges the enthusiasm of friends and strangers with



THE ALFRED HOSPITAL AT MELBOURNE TO COMMEMORATE THE FIRST VISIT OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH.

THE LOUNGER.

It was easy to foresee that telegraphy would ultimately place the London and the provincial press on a level. The London daily papers formerly got important news first. The provincial papers got it not till the next day or two; but telegraphy has changed all this, the daily papers of our large provincial towns get news, both English and foreign, as soon as we have it in London. This was foreseen by everybody who was gifted with common sagacity; but nobody thought that the time would come when news of events occurring in London would find its way into the provincial papers before it appeared in the London press. But yet this does occasionally occur. The news that the Government had consented to the proposal that religious instruction shall not be imparted in school hours, nor at the expense of the State, was telegraphed to several provincial papers on Thursday night week before twelve; but it was not in one of the London morning papers on Friday. Nor is this uncommon. The Dublin and other Irish papers often publish intelligence concerning Irish matters before we see it in the London press. The cause of this is not far to seek. The provincial papers have town correspondents whose duty it is to hunt for news and to telegraph it to their editors. No London paper that I know has an agent of this sort. If the editor hears news at his club he promptly sends it to the office; but events often occur in Parliament late at night and are not known at the clubs until said editor has gone to his labours or his bed. But, apart from all this, I have long since had to decide that many of the papers in our large provincial towns are generally better news papers than any we have in London. And, now I am on the subject, let me ask why our English papers do not make more use of the American press—as much use as the American press does of ours? I have within this year received a score or more of American papers, and whilst reading them two things have surprised me—1st, the quantity of English news in them; 2nd, the wonderful amount of American news which might be, with advantage to the English press and the English people, republished here. If I were the manager of a daily paper, I would have that field thoroughly gleaned.

The "religious difficulty," which seemed at one time likely to wreck Mr. Forster's bill, or, at all events, to impede it, is to be got out of the way. Whatever theological catechisms, creeds, formulas, &c., the clergy or the parents of the children may wish to have taught in schools receiving State aid, are to be taught out of voluntary subscription. So the Government has determined; which is not surprising. The wonder is that Mr. Forster ever dreamed that the Dissenters would submit to have it otherwise. Mr. Gladstone said of the Peers last year, these men "live in balloons." But it seems some of the Liberal Commons also live in balloons, and are utterly ignorant of the feelings, convictions, or prejudices, if you will, of nearly half the people of England. Equality, nothing more than this, is what the Nonconformists ask for, and mean to have. And I, albeit I belong to no sect, say that they ought to have.

Is the Liberal Government going to imitate the old Whigs, of whom it used to be said, "Whilst the Tories knock their heads against stone walls, the Whigs build up stone walls to knock their heads against"? It would seem so. The above-mentioned policy is one instance; though, happily, that wall has been removed. But here is another. On Wednesday Mr. Osborne Morgan, a Welsh member—son of an Episcopalian clergyman, by-the-way—moved the second reading of a bill to enable Dissenters to bury their dead, in their own way, in parish churchyards. This is a proposal, of course, hateful to Churchmen. "What! Methodists and Dissenters pray and sing in consecrated ground! Such sacrilege is not to be endured. And yet how is it to be hindered, with that terrible majority confronting us? We will try the Fabian policy—move that the bill be sent to a Select Committee, and thus possibly shelve it for the Session; and, who knows?—perhaps the Home Secretary will assent, and thus aided, we may succeed." The pious Home Secretary, notwithstanding an earnest protest from the members below the gangway, did assent; and he and his staff marched into the Conservative lobby, and the amendment was carried. Was there ever such blundering folly as this? The Government will have to learn that, if the loyalty of the party is to be preserved, the Government must be loyal to the party.

Messrs. Parkes and Parkes, of Dublin, have issued a series of album sheets of arms, crests, mottoes, &c., belonging to Irish princes, chiefs, septa, and distinguished families. The shields are beautifully engraved, printed, and coloured; but the names of some of these "distinguished Irish families" sound oddly in English ears. It is difficult, for instance, with our notions, to associate aristocracy with such names as O'Flynn, O'Don, O'Hickie, MacSwyny, MacCabe, MacCan, McCarthy, O'Quinn, O'Keefe, Murphy, and so on. The O'Connors, O'Connells, O'Grady's, O'Haras, MacMahon, &c., we are familiar with; and even O'Toole does not sound strange to us by reason of his appearance in Mr. Lever's "Jack Hinton." But some of the others look a "leetle" uncouth. This arises, of course, from our neglected education; and if we only knew them well, perhaps both the names and their owners would become pleasant enough. At all events, their arms are here presented to us in a very handsome style indeed.

Mr. George Hutton seems to be doing good mission work among the poor of St. Giles's, if one may judge by the statements contained in a little tract that I have seen. The tract is entitled "A Brief Record of One Year's Voluntary Mission Work Amongst the Poor of St. Giles's," and contains much that people interested in "reclaiming the heathen" at home will be glad to read.

I have just lighted on a little rhymed brochure, which is so pat to the great education question that you must permit me to call attention to it and to quote a verse or two. It is entitled "Let there be Light: A Plea for Education"—is from the pen of Mr. Colin Rae Brown, and is dedicated to the National Education League. Mr. Brown pleads earnestly and forcibly for education, and demands that said education shall be free. Says he:—

Let the cry be "Education"—
Urged by patriotic tongues—
Giving voice to exhortation
With the power of British lungs!

Give it freely and unfetter'd—
Free and open as the day—
And let no Denomination
Place obstructions in the way.

Close the pit-fall of Permissiveness—
Level up the "ifs" and "buts,"
Else the chariot of Progression
Will be landed in their ruts.

Cease to war about Religion,
Which belongs to other spheres,
Where example halloweth precept,
And to Home or Church elders.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

For some time past the verse in *Tinsley's Magazine* has been so bad as scarcely to deserve the simple remark that it is bad. But the last number, taken as a whole, is of uncommon interest. The essay entitled "Popular Science" is a capital defence of what ought not to need defending—namely, the importance of scientific investigation in cases where the value may not be obvious. The author of the paper does not refer to the Comtist view of this subject; but it is well known that Comte strenuously condemned individual self-direction—so to speak—in these matters. With that autocratic turn which was one of his least amiable characteristics, he decided, so far as he could decide, that a man of science had no business to choose for himself his line of research; that, in fact, scientific studies should be condemned unless they could be shown to have some direct bearing on human welfare. Now, all the history of applied science goes to prove that this is futile; that you cannot predict in what quarter or in what way "applications" of scientific knowledge to human well-being may turn up; and the essay in *Tinsley's* is well worth attention, considering the subject from this point of view. From the paper on "The Great Staffordshire Tragedy" I take a passage about Palmer's diary—having tried in vain, up to this time, to solve the "neri" mystery. However, I have not given much time to it, and do not yet despair of untangling that knot:—

Palmer kept a diary for the year 1855, in which he made many entries—some trivial, and others of grave importance. He also affixed a number

of asterisks, the meaning of which was intelligible to himself alone. For instance, under date of Aug. 21 there are the words, "Poor Walter buried;" and then follow three asterisks. In some cases, also, he wrote the word *neri* in the margin of the page; but what he intended it to stand for is veiled in obscurity. On Sunday (the 20th) there are the words, "At church (sacrament). Willie poorly." Willie was his only surviving child, and the word "poorly" is underlined twice. On Jan. 22 "Mr. Milcrest died," and the word "neri" is in the margin. Mr. Milcrest was, I believe, the father of Mrs. Walter Palmer. Jan. 29, "Saunders, Jere (Jeremiah Smith), and Ben (Thirby) here to dinner. Four bottles of wine." Feb. 3, "Mr. Pratt came here from London to get receipts indorsed on Sun and Norwich insurances." These were two of the policies effected on the life of his wife, Anne Palmer. Feb. 5, "Fifteen dozen of wine in from Pratt." Feb. 7, "Jere and Ben packed the wine, and gave them a bottle each for their trouble." Feb. 8, "Sent Fordham a cheque for £27 for riding Lurley at Shrewsbury." Feb. 15, "Lord Ingestre (the present Earl of Shrewsbury) married to day." Feb. 16, "Dined with Jere at the Earl of Shrewsbury's." Feb. 18, "Quinquagesima yard (timber-yard: his mother's house). Dined at the yard." Feb. 22, Sunday, at church; Mr. Atkinson preached. Feb. 23, "Cook dined here" (this is the first reference to Cook in the diary). March 26, "Went to London by the eight o'clock train to see Pratt." April 6, "Good Friday, at church with Willie." May 10, "Paid Sarah Palmer's bill" (one of the forgeries, no doubt). June 13, "At Newton, won the gold cup with Lurley." June 14, "Won the Newton Cup with Lurley." On June 20 there is an entry, "Lent B. Thirby (his late assistant in the surgery) £35." Then follow six asterisks. 26th, "Eliza (a servant) confined of a little boy." Seven asterisks here follow, and a similar number to an entry on July 3, when "Eliza came down stairs."

The last entry in the journal is in these words: "Attended p.m. examination on poor Cook, with Dr. Harland, Mr. Bamford, Newton, and a Mr. Devonshire."

On the whole, Palmer appears to have been as systematic and business-like a villain as ever lived.

In the *Victoria*, Mrs. Hawkins's story of "Stella's Penance" is decidedly good; but, since Miss Faithfull has been lecturing so much, the editing of this magazine has not been up to the mark—as I have observed in this column more than once.

The "Second Annual Report of the Executive Committee of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage," presented at the Annual General Meeting, Dec. 15, 1869, has been sent to this Journal. The "Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage" (the title is not very lucidly stated) will not, I am sure, think it unfair if I point out that of their nine rules three are stated in bad English. Here is the first, printed on page 29 of the pamphlet:—"I. The object of the society is to obtain for women the right of voting for members of Parliament on the same conditions as it is, or may be, granted to men." In this case the word "on" should be added after the word "men;" or, which would be much better, the sentence should read after the word "conditions" in this way:—"As those upon which it is or may be granted to men." The sixth rule is as follows:—"VI. A general meeting of the society shall be held once a year to receive the report, the statement of accounts, to appoint the committee, and transact any other business which may arise." Here the word "and" should have been inserted before the words "the statement of accounts." I now come to the ninth and last rule of this "national society":—"IX. These rules shall not be altered, except at a general meeting; and no rule shall be altered at any meeting unless a month's notice of such proposed alteration has been given to the committee." In the first place, this is clumsy, and might have been expressed in much fewer words; and, in the second place, it is, like the first and sixth rules, positively incorrect in point of grammar. It would have been better to say "shall have been given" instead of "has been given;" but that is a mere trifle. The real blunder lies in the use of the phrase "Such proposed alteration." Which "proposed alteration?" This would have been right enough if the previous part of the clause had run—"no alteration of any rule shall be made;" but, as the rule now stands, the error is as great as if a plural verb had been used with a singular noun. The word "any," employed in lieu of "such," would have made the sentence right, though it would still have been wordy and awkward.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The loss of Mr. J. S. Clarke has been somewhat severely felt at the Strand; and until Mr. Burnand's new burlesque, called "St. George and a Dragon; or, We Are Seven," is produced, but moderate houses may be expected. The trifling comedietta, "Widows' Weeds," by Mr. John Oxenford and Mr. Horace Wigan, is, of course, not calculated to make much stir. Miss Buntyn is provided in it with one of those merry and intensely cackinnatory characters in which she so much delights; and Mr. H. J. Turner again persuades me that he is an actor not on the whole sufficiently appreciated. But the departure of Mr. John S. Clarke has created a vacuum, and what will become of the poor little Strand when Mr. James and Mr. Thorne leave, I am unable to see. I see, by-the-by, that Mr. Terry returns—a gentleman who created some impression by singing an intensely ridiculous and pointless song some months back.

I have been to see the officers of the Guards act three small plays at the HOLBORN, and, on the whole, I agree with a fair friend of mine, who thinks they had better stick to "guarding," and leave acting alone. I suppose I have lost all appreciation of fun; but for the life of me I do not see any jest in a young gentleman called Greville Nugent, who, I believe, represents Longford in Parliament, dressing up in a farce as a repulsive-looking woman, and pulling up his petticoats above his knees. If the worthy constituents of Longford had seen their respected member sprawling on a sofa, dressed up as a woman and exhibiting some very ugly legs cased in silk stockings, I think they would agree with me that they had witnessed a very sickening sight. I have already and frequently recorded my detestation of actors dressing up as women in burlesques; but when members of Parliament in the drawing-room scene of a comedy outrage decency in the manner I have described, I have a right to be as angry as no doubt the refined girls in the stalls were at Mr. Greville Nugent's wit. For the rest, Captain Stracy played Hugh de Brass in "A Regular Fix" very fairly; Colonel Fielding gave a clever reading of *Monsieur Jacques*; and Colonel Pemberton gave the usual amateur imitation of Charles Mathews which invariably pleases amateurs but does not in the least hurt our veteran comedian. However, the officers of the Guards seemed very glad of the opportunity of appearing on a public stage; their friends were certainly delighted to see them, and applauded them heartily; and, I trust, under these circumstances the charity—the Brigade of Guards Institute—for which the amateur theatricals were given, was considerably benefited.

I cannot congratulate Mr. Byron on his new play of "The Prompter's Box," at the ADELPHI, but I can honestly say he made me roar with laughter at his quaint interpretation of a seedy provincial tragedian, who spits his sentiments into blank verse. Mr. FitzAltamont is a genius with a grievance of a very sombre turn of mind, and evidently sketched from nature. As an actor, Mr. Byron is steadily improving, and practice is fast procuring for him sufficient ease and confidence to portray his clever creations. For FitzAltamont is a creation in his way, although we meet someone very like him in "Nicholas Nickleby." But why does Mr. Byron attempt so much? To begin with, he writes too quickly, and does not take sufficient pains to mount the character of the seedy tragedian properly. The new play is a tedious *réchauffé* of a score of plays I have seen before, and of which I am heartily sick. It is in four long acts, necessitating the introduction of recollections of "Caste," "Palluel," "The First Night" (the plot of which play occupies a whole act), *cum multis aliis*. But the worst of this long play is that FitzAltamont, Mr. Byron's pet creation, and the character he plays so admirably, is compelled to be smothered to suit the requirements of the play. When FitzAltamont, the seedy provincial hack, turns into a London lecturer, and finally blooms into a music-hall cad, the audience loses all interest in him; though I am bound to say Mr. Byron's appearance on the stage was invariably a relief, and prevented the audience from dozing off scores of times. The construction of this new play is, honestly,

very bad indeed; and again we find an author telling the story of his play in the early part of the first act, and expecting the audience to be interested throughout the evening. The story, briefly told, is that a young man of position falls in love with an actress, and his father naturally disapproves the match. The father of the man, indeed, attempts to bribe the father of the girl with a sum of £500. The old prompter rejects the bribe with scorn, but the girl eventually accepts it, in order to save her rascally brother from prison, and dismisses her young man. The tables are soon turned. The young man is ruined, and turns dramatic author. The scamp reforms, and pays back the £500. The girl gets consumptive, and naturally requires back her lover, but the old prompter is never told about his son's disgrace. Of course there are various ramifications of this story in order to stretch it out into four acts, which are clumsily and carelessly put together. I did not like anyone's acting but Mr. Byron's. Mr. Webster on a first night is painful. He is so slow, either from nervousness or inability to study, that he simply distresses the audience. Miss Furtado is, as usual, Miss Furtado; and Mrs. Mellon is not the Mrs. Mellon she used to be. Mr. J. D. Beveridge played with some spirit and earnestness; and Mr. Ashley was very good by extraordinary fits and starts. But I was certainly disappointed, if not vexed, with the play. I do not suppose any one doubts that many excellent notions were floating about Mr. Byron's brain when he thought of writing this play, but he will not give himself time to do anything with any of his notions. The whole audience was thoroughly impressed with Mr. Byron's improvement and promise as an actor; but, I think, many people will agree with me that he should write small pieces for a small company, at a small theatre. Mr. Byron is now such a favourite that he must not be left out of the cast, of course.

"Barwise's Book" is to be tried at Manchester before it is produced at the HAYMARKET, and while Mr. Sothorn is away, "New Men and Old Acres" will be revived for a few weeks.

Mr. Robertson's comedy for the PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE is not quite finished yet. The title, I believe, is "M. P.," and a little bird tells me the story is not altogether unlike Mr. Byron's "Prompter's Box." If this be the case, we shall have three plays about actors and actresses off the stage—viz., at the Adelphi, Prince of Wales, and Holborn, which opens very shortly with Mr. Roberts's drama, "Behind the Curtain."

"Cox and Box" will be withdrawn at the GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, on Saturday (to-day), after having been performed nearly three hundred times. The novelty which will take its place on Monday is an adaptation from Offenbach, by F. C. Burnand, with the quaint title of "Beggar my Neighbour: a Blindman's Bouffe," in which Mr. German Reed and Mr. Arthur Cecil will appear.

PRESENTATION.—On Thursday, the 17th inst., a testimonial was presented to Mr. George Wilkinson (of St. Paul, Covent Garden), for eleven years Chairman of the Strand Union Board of Guardians, as a recognition of his public services. The testimonial took the form of a purse of 150s., accompanied with an illuminated scroll, expressing, in the name of his fellow guardians and parishioners, their sense of Mr. Wilkinson's "skill, ability, and great kindness to the deserving poor."

FAGGOT VOTES IN SCOTLAND.—A meeting of electors and non-electors of Peebles and Selkirk was held at Peebles, on Tuesday, to consider the means of putting a stop to the system of creating faggot votes, which has been extensively practised in both counties. Sir John Murray, of Philiphaugh, presided. There were nearly 1000 persons present, including several gentlemen from the counties of Roxburgh and Dumfries. Resolutions condemnatory of the system were passed, and it was resolved to petition Parliament on the subject.

THE BOMBAY AND ONEIDA.—Detailed accounts have now reached us of the inquiry at Kanagawa, on Jan. 27, into the circumstances connected with the collision between the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamer Bombay and the United States corvette Oneida, near Yokohama, in Japan, on Jan. 24. In his evidence before the Court, Captain Eyre, of the Bombay, stated that he did not stop to render any assistance because he did not think any damage had been done. The shock of the collision was very light. He furthermore stated that he saw no signals to stop, and heard no sound or voices from the Oneida. Evidence to the same effect was given by the chief officer and pilot. The inquiry was then adjourned, but the sentence of the Court, suspending the certificate of the captain of the Bombay for six months, has already been announced by telegraph.

PENSIONS FOR ABOLISHED OFFICES.—Although the pensions in consideration of abolished offices are not so numerous as they formerly were, several of these charges yet remain upon the Consolidated Fund. Lord Avonmore, late registrar of the Irish Court of Chancery, took £4200 a year; the Rev. T. Thurlow, clerk of the Hanaper, £4028; Lord Ellenborough, chief clerk of the Court of Queen's Bench, £7700; the Hon. E. Kenyon, clerk at Nisi Prius, £364; the Hon. Spencer Law, clerk of dockets, £450; Lord Winford, filar, £251; the Duke of Grafton, controller of the seals, £243; Mr. Hudson, prothonotary, £2034; Sir Piers Mostyn, custos brevium, £787; Sir W. Eden, also custos brevium, £787; Mr. T. White, clerk in the Court of Exchequer, £1114; R. Harrison, officer of the pipe, "in perpetuity," £62; Mr. Heneage, hereditary chief proclamator and chief usher, £588; Mr. Heath, clerk of the Middlesex County Court, £2100; the officers of the late ecclesiastical courts, £34,668.

SCENE AT A FUNERAL.—On Sunday afternoon a man accidentally killed was taken for burial to the Hedon-road Cemetery, Hull. The deceased worked in a large shipbuilding yard, and was a member of a benefit club. A thousand persons were present. The Rev. S. Pratt, Curate of Daypool, went through the first part of the service in the sacristy, and then commenced to preach a sermon before going to the grave side. Objections were made to the sermon, and part of the congregation left the church. The clergyman persisted, and commenced preaching outside the church. Meanwhile the mourners went to the grave. The widow fainted, and was removed. The clergyman still continued and finished his sermon, the mourners leaving without seeing the completion of the ceremony. The minister was hooted and pelted with stones on going away, and the window of the house in which he took shelter was smashed. Ultimately the police came and protected him.

THE POOR-LAW BOARD AND PAUPER EMIGRATION.—The guardians of Poplar Union having resolved to authorise the various relief committees to grant assistance to emigrants to the extent of £2 per statute adult, and having applied to the Poor-Law Board for their sanction to this step, the Board have replied, stating that "they are most anxious to afford the guardians every facility in their power towards carrying out their wishes; but, as the Board are advised that emigration is not relief in the eye of the law, the Board apprehend that it will be necessary for the whole board of guardians to ratify the proceedings of the relief committees before the Poor-Law Board could sanction the expenditure of funds." The Poor-Law Board express an opinion that this will not necessitate any unreasonable delay, and add that, on the receipt of the requisite information, the Board will take care that the necessary orders are issued forthwith. The Board conclude by stating that, "as the rules and regulations hitherto prescribed in individual cases have not been embodied in any general order, the Board will be able to dispense with the contract hitherto enforced, which, as they have been informed, has acted as an obstacle to emigration; and, on being informed by the guardians of the mode in which they propose to carry out the emigration in question, the Board will inform them how far they can dispense with the enforcement of other regulations." This reply was considered satisfactory by the Poplar guardians, who are about to inaugurate a system of pauper emigration on the terms stated in the resolution transmitted to the Poor-Law Board, and they expressed their complete satisfaction with the requirements of the latter Board in connection therewith.

A NAME PROSCRIBED.—The Royal descent of the Clan of the Macgregors can be traced to the remotest antiquity. Gregor Garubh, or the "Stout," fought under King Duncan I. in his battles against the Normans and Danes, and highly resented the murder of that monarch by Macbeth. He was one of the chief promoters of the restoration of Malcolm, Prince of Cumberland, to the throne of his father. In the early part of the seventeenth century there were feuds between the clans of the Macgregors, the Colquhouns, the Buchanans, and the Grahams, and the Macgregors were persecuted with great fury, anyone being at liberty to mutilate and slay them with impunity. In this situation the Macgregors continued till the time of the Solemn League and Covenant, which, as their principal enemies were interested in it, afforded them a respite. They were much courted to join the confederacy upon promises of future friendship; but rebellion against Majesty had ever been detestable to them, and they declared "that, as they bore the crown on the point of their swords, they would not fail to use the latter in support of the former." They are the only instance of a race being forbidden to bear their family name, which was first proscribed by James VI. (of Scotland). Patrick Macgregor afterwards joined Montrose (with whom he was in particular esteem) in support of the Royal cause, with about 1000 of his clan. They were restored to their estates, and the law forbidding them to use their own name was repealed, by Charles II., 1661. In the reign of William and Mary this law was again revived, without any cause but to act as a terror to other clans. The Act was repealed 1747, but the name was not restored till a Royal license to assume it was obtained by Sir John Murray (properly Macgregor), 1822.—From "Debate's Illustrated Baronetage and Knightage."

OBITUARY.

THE EARL OF RODEN.—The Right Hon. Robert Jocelyn, Earl of Roden, died on Sunday, at Enniskerry. The noble Earl had taken a very prominent part in politics, more especially in his advocacy of Protestantism. He was a man of pleasant and affable manners. He adopted a thoroughly Conservative view in Irish politics. He had suffered much for his political faith; for, in taking too zealous a part in political matters, he was, in 1819, deprived of his position as custos rotulorum of the county of Louth. During the recent agitation for the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland the late Lord was one of the most strenuous opponents to that measure. During his early career, both in the House of Commons and in the upper branch of the Legislature, he took a very active part in advocating Protestantism. At the great Protestant meeting in Dublin, in January, 1837, he strongly advocated the preservation of the Protestant Church. After being superseded as custos rotulorum of the county of Louth and Lieutenant-Colonel of the militia, he took a less active part in politics. He was a thorough and consistent advocate of Conservative principles, and by his genial and honest conduct enjoyed the good opinion of many political opponents. The late Right Hon. Robert Jocelyn, Earl of Roden, Viscount Jocelyn, and Baron Newport, of Newport, in the county of Tipperary, in the Peerage of Ireland; Baron Clanbrassil, of Hyde Hall, Hertfordshire, and Dundalk, in that of the United Kingdom; and a Baronet of England (created 1663), was the eldest son of Robert, second Earl of Roden, by his first wife, Frances Theodosia, eldest daughter of the Very Rev. Robert Bligh, Dean of Elphin, brother of the first Earl of Darnley. He was born Oct. 27, 1788, consequently he was in his eighty-second year, and succeeded his father in the Earldom in June, 1820. The late Earl married, Jan. 9, 1813, the Hon. Margaret Frances Catherine Stapleton, second daughter of Thomas, twenty-second Lord Le des Spencers, and by that Lady, who died in 1860, he leaves surviving issue the Marchioness Elizabeth of Londonderry; Frances, Countess of Gainsborough; Maria, widow of the Hon. Major G. Forester; and Colonel the Hon. Strange Jocelyn (late of the Scots Fusilier Guards), and the Hon. William Nassau Jocelyn, belonging to the diplomatic service. The deceased Earl was educated at Harrow, and for nearly half a century represented Louth in the House of Commons before he succeeded his father in the peerage. He was appointed Treasurer of his Majesty's Household in 1812, and the same year was nominated Vice-Chamberlain of the Royal Household, which office he held till 1821. The late Earl married, secondly, in 1862, Mrs. Reilly, daughter of Mr. Thomas Andrews, of Green Knowes, N.B., and widow of Captain Robert Lushington Reilly, of the Madras Army. The late Earl enjoyed a pension of £2700 a year, for the abolished office of Auditor-General of the Exchequer in Ireland. The deceased Earl is succeeded in the family honours by his grandson, Robert, Viscount Jocelyn, eldest son of his son, Robert, Viscount Jocelyn, who died in August, 1851, by Lady Frances, youngest daughter of the fifth Earl Cowper and the late Viscountess Palmerston. The present Earl was educated at Cambridge, where he graduated A.B. in 1807, and has subsequently served in the 1st Life Guards. The late Earl had been a Privy Councillor since 1812, and was the senior Knight of the Order of St. Patrick, having been created a Knight of that order in 1821.

THE MARQUIS OF AILSA, K.T.—Injuries sustained by Lord Ailsa by a fall in the hunting-field some weeks since have had a fatal result. His Lordship died at his family residence, Culzean Castle, to which he had been removed from Kilmarnock. The Most Noble Archibald Kennedy, Marquis of Ailsa, in the county of Ayr, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, Earl of Cassilis and Baron Kennedy in the Peerage of Scotland, and a Baronet of Nova Scotia, was the eldest son of Archibald, late Earl of Cassilis (who died in 1832), by Eleanor, only daughter and heiress of John Allardyce, Esq., of Dunottar, N.B. He was born at Dunottar, in the month of August, 1816, and was formerly a Lieutenant in the 17th Dragoons, from which he retired in 1842. He was subsequently for a short time Lieutenant-Colonel of the Ayrshire Rifle Volunteers. He succeeded to the family honours and estates, as second Marquis, on the death of his grandfather, in September, 1846, and was nominated a Knight of the Scottish Order of the Thistle in 1859. His Lordship, who was Lord Lieutenant of the county of Ayr, married, in November, 1846, Julia, second daughter of the late Sir Robert Mountney Jephson, formerly Judge-Advocate at Gibraltar, by whom he had a family of three daughters and three sons. He is succeeded in his Scottish and English titles by his eldest son, Archibald, Earl of Cassilis, who is an officer in the Coldstream Guards and who was born in September, 1847. The Kennedys have held lands in Ayrshire since the reign of David II. of Scotland, and the first member of the family who bore that name appears, from Sir Bernard Burke, to have had a charter confirmatory of the lands of Cassilis, or Castels, in the county of Ayr, from that Sovereign, for whose liberation his son and successor, Sir Gilbert Kennedy, was given up as a hostage to the English King. The grandson of this Sir Gilbert Kennedy, one of the Regents of the Kingdom of Scotland during the minority of James III., was elevated to the Scottish Peerage, in A.D. 1452, as Lord Kennedy. The third Baron, who fell at Flodden Field, was created Earl of Cassilis by James IV., and from him the late Marquis was directly descended in the tenth generation.

THE BISHOP OF BARBADOES.—The death of the Right Rev. Dr. Thomas Parry, Bishop of Barbadoes, happened on Wednesday week, at his residence in the West of England, after a long illness, which ended in a gradual decay, at the age of about seventy-five. The fourth son of a Welsh clergyman, the Rev. Edward Parry, Rector of Llanferres, Denbighshire, he was born in North Wales, in the year 1795. He was educated at Oriel College, Oxford, where he took his Bachelor's degree as a first-class in mathematical and a second-class in classical honours in Michaelmas Term, 1816, and was shortly afterwards elected to a Fellowship at Balliol College, where he took his degree of Master of Arts. He held for a few years the college living of St. Leonard's, Colchester; and in 1821, when the see of Barbadoes was founded, and the late Bishop Coleridge was sent out as its first occupant, he chose Mr. Parry as his Archdeacon for the Island of Antigua, where he laboured many years. From 1840 to 1842 he held the Archdeaconry of Barbadoes. In 1842, on the resignation of Dr. Coleridge, he was consecrated in Westminster Abbey as his successor in the Bishopric. While health and strength remained to him he was indefatigable as a Bishop, and his colonial work never seemed to wear or exhaust him. But during the last few years he was obliged to seek a cooler climate, and recently he had been endeavouring to effect, with regard to Barbadoes, an arrangement such as that which has lately been legalised in England, and to be allowed to resign his see and retire on a small pension. As, however, there were difficulties in the way of such a step, he obtained, a year or two ago, the consecration of his son, Archdeacon Henry Parry, as his Suffragan or Coadjutor Bishop. Dr. Parry was a safe, sound, and moderate High Churchman of the old school, and was deservedly respected both at home and in his distant diocese. He was the author of several volumes of sermons, charges, &c., expository works on St. Paul's Epistles to the Romans, Hebrews, &c. He married Louisa, daughter of the late Rev. Henry Hutton, Fellow of Balliol College, and afterwards Rector of Beaumont, Essex, and granddaughter of the late Sir W. Pepperell, by whom, who survives him, he has left a numerous family to lament his loss.

MR. EDWARD DENISON, M.P.—Intelligence has been received from Australia of the death, at Melbourne, of Mr. Edward Denison, M.P. for Newark, nephew and heir presumptive to the Speaker of the House of Commons. Mr. Denison was born in 1810, the only son of the late Dr. Denison, Bishop of Salisbury, by his first wife, Louisa, daughter of the late Mr. Ker Seymour, the highly-respected ancestor of the Duke of Devonshire. After spending some years at Eton, he went to Christ Church, Oxford, where he graduated, after narrowly missing the first-class in law and modern history. At the general election in 1868 he was elected Member for Newark, which he continued to represent until his lamented death, although he had been

compelled in the autumn of last year to repair to Australia for the benefit of his health.

MR. J. W. S. WYLLIE.—The death is announced of Mr. J. W. S. Wyllie, C.S.I., late Foreign Secretary to the Government of India. Mr. Wyllie was returned to Parliament for Hereford in the Liberal interest at the general election in 1868, but was unseated on petition. Mr. Wyllie was one of the most distinguished of the younger members of the Indian Civil Service, and was the author of several review articles of great ability. He was in his thirty-fifth year.

LORD GRAVES.—Baron Graves, in the Peerage of Ireland, died on Sunday morning, at Thackes House, Devonport. The deceased was the third Baron, and succeeded to the title in 1830, on the death of his father. He was twice married—in 1832 to the relict of General Comte Bruyère, and in 1833 to Mdlle. Adèle Louise Malène. For some years past his Lordship lived in retirement. His son, Clarence Edward (born 1847), succeeds to the title.

Literature.

Alexandra: A Gift Book for the Alexandra Orphanage for Infants, Hornsey-rose. Edited by THOMAS ARCHER. London: James Clarke and Co., Fleet-street; James Nisbet and Co., Berners-street, Oxford-street.

"Love lightens labour;" ay, and sanctifies it, too; as everyone concerned in the production of the beautiful volume before us will be ready to confess; for sure we are that writers, artists, engravers, printer, paper-makers, binders, publishers, and—last, but not chief of all—the editor, will feel that in aiding an admirable institution in a way so elegant as well as effective as they have here done, they have really been the recipients, not the bestowers, of benefit. We learn from the titlepage that the contents of the work have been "contributed, drawn, engraved, printed, bound, and published gratuitously for the benefit of the institution;" and, though Mr. Archer modestly makes no mention of his own labours, we may add that his efforts have been recompensed in the same way as those of his collaborators—that is, by the exceeding great reward that accompanies the consciousness of a good deed well done. And in this book the work is well done, in every respect. It is replete with gems of thought, in verse and prose; of art, in beautifully-designed and executed engravings; and the printing, paper, and binding make it a gem altogether. Moreover, it boasts a couple of sweet gems in the shape of a chaste illuminated titlepage and an admirable photograph of the orphanage and the assembled orphans resident therein. We are glad to learn that the public so fully appreciate the book that its sale is likely to produce a goodly sum to the funds of the institution; and we hope that a still larger number of purchasers will hasten to enrich themselves by participating in the good work the volume typifies, as well as by obtaining a copy of one of the handsomest and most pleasing books we have ever seen. We have puzzled long over the selection of a passage for extract (amid so much wealth, wit wanders sorely); and, unable to give a preference for any one complete piece, we copy a stanza or two from a beautiful poem, by the author of "Liliput Levée," entitled

AUTUMN.

When the roses are gone from the lawn,
When the delicate exquisite roses are dead,
And the bold geraniums are burning red;
When the curtain of twilight in mist is drawn;
When the robin sings over the path,
And the scythe whistles wet in the after-math,
And the polished acorns in showers are shed,—
(How long is it, dear, since the lily lay dead?)
There is something remains to be said;
Oh, what is it that tries to get said,
That hangs in the soft sweet air,
As aware, and yet all unaware;
A secret at parting, a token,
A word that can never get spoken?

The wheat is housed, the vats are pressed,
The sweet year passes to her rest;
The sun has touched her robes with gold
And brown and crimson manifold:
She has given her gifts; she has given the wheat,
And gifts of the orchard, ruddy and sweet.
Like a queen she rests, the passing year;
But the threatening winds creep near and near,
Speak ominous words to her through the trees,
And shake the gold down to her knees,
And shred the crimson in the crown.
The sun makes for her when he goes down:
Yea, she must pass, and take, unspoken,
The love, the heart-break, and the token.

The hills in the distance how plain!
But an hour after noon comes a sudden rain,
Glittering and wet, and blown aslant
By the south wind soft yet dominant,
Blown oblique into clouds of spray,
Clouds of silvery smoke. Behold!
The distant hills are blurred and grey,
And the hill from the heaven cannot be told;
But over beyond, where the road runs white,
The slopes of stubble are bathed in light;
And the sudden ghostly autumn rain
Is gone, and the hills once more are plain;
But the secret thing has not been said—
How long is it, dear, since the lily lay dead?

That passage, we think, is sure to whet the appetite of readers for more from the same source, and send them to the book itself, where good things are to be found in plenty.

Modern Russia. By Dr. JULIUS ECKARDT. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

Since the death of Nicholas and the termination of the Crimean War, Russia, to a certain extent, has become a changed country—to a certain extent as to Russian ideas, and to a certain extent only over Russian territory. The old Russian idea, that of making all Europe Cossack, and Asia also, is not entertained in the volume before us; for Dr. Eckardt seems to rely upon the prudence or timidity of one of our latest foes, despite the opinions of our military and civil authorities as to Afghanistan. The book means rather what has been done than surmises what may possibly follow. It comprises Russia very modern indeed: Russia under Alexander II., Russian Communism, the Greek Orthodox Church and its sects, and a curious and exhaustive account of the Baltic Provinces. Surely, all this must be delicious information for thirty seekers after Russia: but—there is always a but—there is a slight drawback. Somewhere in these pages Dr. Eckardt says that it is very difficult, even for a Russian, to write about Russia; because he can know but very little concerning even a very little of it. And the Doctor adds it is infinitely more difficult for a foreigner. Presuming that Dr. Eckardt is no Russian, but a German, we must say that, under the circumstances, he has done his work remarkably well. But he is quite right as to difficulties, which almost amount to impossibilities. Although travelling in England has been common enough of late, there must be thousands of the men of Kent who never saw a Yorkshire wold; and in Russia we may be certain that the schoolmaster is very much abroad when asking a Finland pupil questions about Circassia. However, the author takes us into regions political, social, and religious, which can scarcely be fairly regarded here, but only mentioned. The Communism, the Church, and the Baltic Provinces must be left for interested readers. But the first half of the volume, called Russia under Alexander II., may be read with deep interest by all those who may remember the "strange character of the Czar Nicholas, a man by no means 'so bad as he seemed.'" He was adhering to traditions, and had the whole nation, or rather nations, under his

thumb. He was organising great reforms, when the Turkish ambition seized him again. He had long lost the idea—which perhaps he never held, but which was simply held for him by a mass of Englishmen effete with the thirty years' peace—of marching up to the foot of London Bridge, with Cossacks of the Don and "Tatars of the Ukraine breed," as the hairdressers' apprentices used to say about the time our Queen and the late Prince were married. It is enough just now to say that Alexander has carried out the Nicholas idea to a greater extent than his father could ever have dreamed of doing, and so literally that, in Mr. Tennyson's words, freedom grew license, and University students became insurgents at even a momentary halt. The emancipation of the serfs and the emancipation of the press, under Alexander II., will probably mark as great an era in the history of Russia as that when Peter the Great learnt the noble arts of government and ship building—not sobriety—under our own William III. To this half of the volume, which shows how admirably Alexander has carried out and improved upon his father's good intentions, general attention should be directed. And, as journalists have their freemasonry all over the world, let us acknowledge that all the great good which has come to Russia is principally due to the great journalist recently dead, Alexander Herzen.

The Lily and the Rose. A Tale of the Untruth of a True Heart. By GABRIEL H. HARWOOD. Three vols. London: Tinsley Brothers.

"The Lily and the Rose" is precisely the kind of book which might be expected from a very young and unfinished lady just escaped from Miss Pinkerton's seminary, without Thackeray's Johnson's "Dixie" being given to her, and without the cleverness of Becky Sharp. Everybody knows that such young ladies are delightful society—"sweet as currant-jelly," as Mr. Sala says, in "Wat Tyler, M.P.;" but they are not altogether the best guides, philosophers, and friends. Indeed, they want training, just as delicate jasmine does until it becomes nailed up to the wall and trellis-work of a husband. But their views of life are delicious. Sometimes—even after Miss Pinkerton at Hammersmith—their ignorance is delicious also. But all these delights do not come up to the charms of language in which they occasionally clothe their darling ideas. Some of them are uncommon. To begin with: at page 13 the ice of idea breaks with sudden inspiration, and cracks as follows:—"Mervyn grew pale. He paused a moment, and then asked, 'Uncle, will you answer me a question?' 'Yes; certainly, my boy. What is it?' 'Had I ever a father?' 'Yes,' 'Have I one now?' The Colonel shook his head and sighed. 'Then it is he,' said Mervyn; 'I am not mistaken; I knew I remembered him.' There is a great deal of 'Box and Cox' and the strawberry mark in this; and it is quite in keeping with the unsophisticated youngster not knowing that he is a Peer of England until he is old enough 'to know much better,' and to welcome unknown sisters and cousins as if they were as familiar as sprats in December or leaves in Vallambrosa. The characters of the Lily and the Rose—that is to say, of the girls whom they represent—may be guessed; blonde and brunette are always as different as plain and ringlets. But they are difficult to make out in these volumes, because they curiously happen for once to be very much alike. They are alike because all the blondes, all the brunettes, and all their lovers, choose to misunderstand each other up to the last moment, and then, as everybody might have expected, there is no harm done to anybody. Miss Harwood delights in rhapsodies, which, perhaps, have the effect of halting the march of the story, and may have rendered us sometimes insensible to the beauty of the surrounding accompaniments. For instance, a young lady's brother has disappeared, and she speaks thus:—

O my brother, my brother! O Lucifer, Lucifer! my fallen star! He was my sun, but you were my morning star; and I was but a little earth-flower, offering up my incense to you both; while you lived far away from me in your own brightness. . . . He is the sun, for I cannot see him for his brightness. The world is full of his poetry as the earth is full of sunbeams—and men cannot see the source, for their eyes are dazzled. But I have seen it—the little flower has seen it; the little flower knows the secret of the great sun, &c.

This kind of writing is very charming indeed. We forbear to go into details of the story, for fear of accidents; but no sentimentalist will be complete for the season without it.

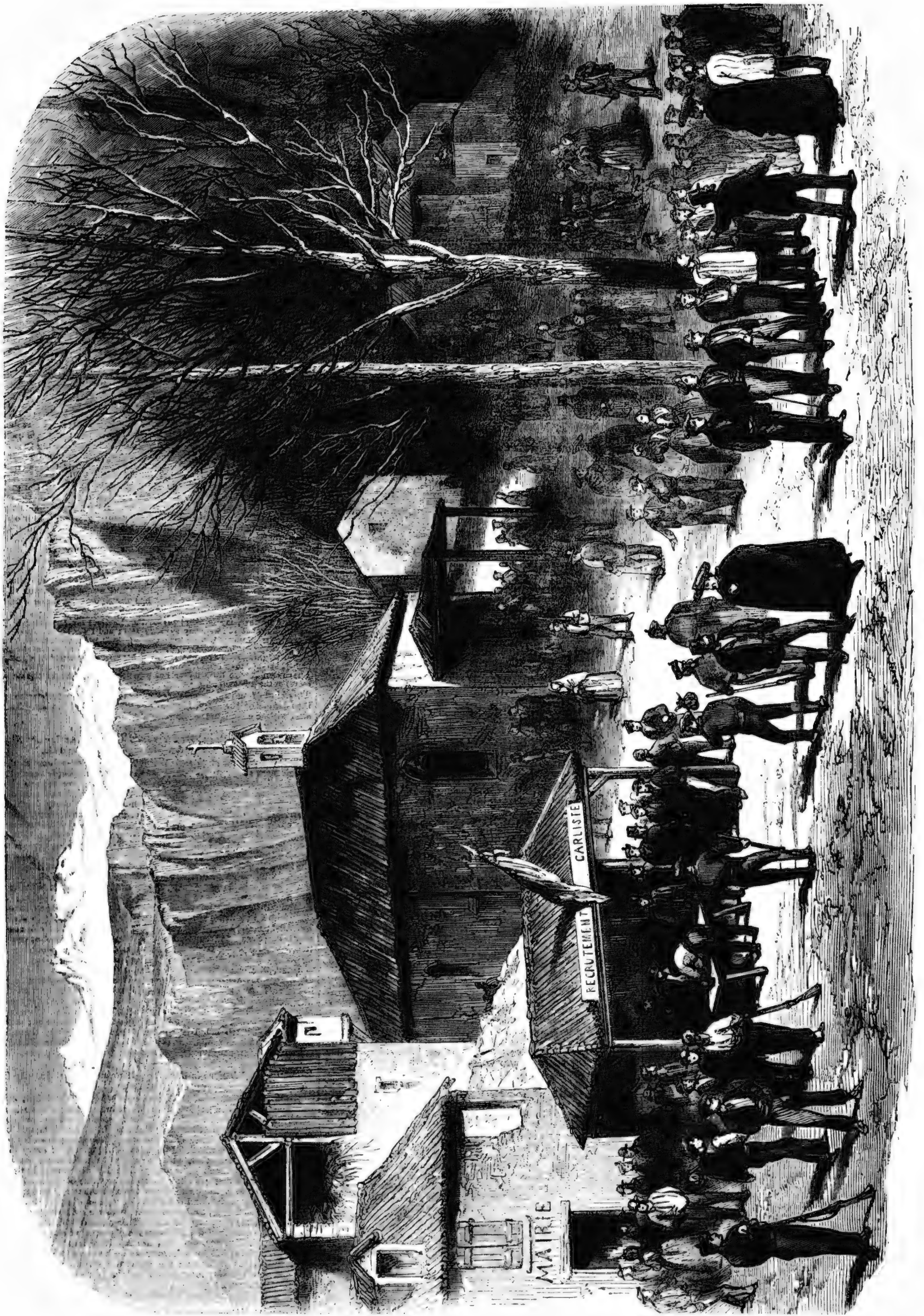
Vivia. A Modern Story. By FLORENCE WILFORD, Author of "Nigel Bartram's Ideal," &c. London: Warne and Co.

This is the latest of Messrs. Warne's series of one-volume stories, which seem designed for young ladies and young people generally, but which manage to attract the attention of grave and reverend seniors. It would be wrong to sketch Miss Wilford's story all through; but it is violating no confidence to say that it contains marriages and deaths, and that births seem most imminent towards the close. Vivia's life amongst her great-aunts and grandmothers is excellently told, and her character is brought out with more than average skill. Considering how strangely she is brought up, it is no wonder that she perpetually distrusts herself, and cannot come to anything like an understanding with her most worthy lover, Captain More. But no one can doubt how these matters end. The book may not please at first. For instance, anybody might feel something worse than annoyance at such a passage as that on page 5, Captain More says, "But somehow a missionary suggests an underbred fellow in a white choker, not a stately old monk;" to which his cousin Kate, a married young lady, replies—"That's because you take your ideas from Dickens, and the shallow, ignorant newspaper-scribbles that try to throw contempt on all that is noble and unworldly." Certainly Mr. Dickens has had something to say about Stiggins and Chadband, during his thirty-five years of active experience of the world—and it may be time for him to retract and to reform! As for the newspaper scribbles, they are in such excellent society when coupled with the great novelist that they can cheerfully afford to forgive any faint slight. But the story strengthens as it proceeds, and has good human interest; and, beyond rather too much learned conversation here and there, is tolerably free from faults. It is one of the best of Messrs. Warne's series. The few engravings, too, are equally worthy of praise.

A Catalogue of Designs in Jewellery, Watches, Clocks, &c. By E. W. STREETER.

Mr. Streeter (successor to Hancock and Co.), of Conduit-street, Old Bond-street, has published an illustrated catalogue of designs in jewellery and watch and clock work, which must not only be of great service to purchasers of these articles, but is a sort of jewel in itself, so elegantly is it got up. The catalogue embraces some hundreds of patterns of articles of bijouterie of every description, and, moreover, affords some valuable hints as to how to purchase them. The great difficulty the public have to encounter in this matter is how to know the value of goods offered to them—how to distinguish the real from the sham. The degrees of alloy are so varied, and the tricks of "get-up" by gilding and otherwise so numerous, that even skilled eyes are apt to be deceived. Mr. Streeter, however, supplies an unfailing rule of guidance: take care that the quality of the gold and the character of the stones are marked on the invoice, and you are safe from imposition, for no man will sell an article for one thing which he knows to be another when the means of proving the cheat are furnished by himself. This and much useful information besides is to be found in Mr. Streeter's catalogue.

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS.—The Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts have issued their first report. As far as their inquiries have extended, very important and valuable materials have been brought to light, illustrating some of the least-known periods in the history of Great Britain. About 180 persons and heads of institutions have expressed their willingness to co-operate with the Commissioners; and, amongst others, the Duke of Bedford has placed the calendar of his valuable collection at Woburn Abbey at their disposal.



RECRUITING CARLIST SOLDIERS IN A VILLAGE OF THE FRENCH PYRENEES.

DON HENRY DE BOURBON.

DON HENRY DE BOURBON, who was lately killed in a duel with the Duke de Montpensier at Madrid, was a son of the Infante Don Paula of Spain, and brother of the husband of the ex-Queen Isabella. He was born on April 17, 1823, and was consequently in his forty-seventh year. He held the rank of Vice-Admiral in the Spanish navy, and had been created Duke of Seville by Queen Isabella. He was married, in 1849, to an Italian lady named Castellvi, and has left four children, who are now orphans, Don Henry's wife having been dead some years. Don Henry was always of a rather erratic disposition, and had adopted Republican opinions, in consequence of which circumstance, and of the trouble he was in the habit of causing, he was banished by Narvaez and denuded of his naval rank. He then took up his residence in Paris, where he lived chiefly on the means supplied to him by his brother, the ex-King. The Paris correspondent of the *Daily News* thus speaks of the late Prince:—"Don Henry was the brother of Francis d'Assise, the husband whom Louis Philippe gave to Isabella. His father, Francis de Paula, was the youngest child of Charles IV., and the daughter of a Bourbon Grand Duke of Tuscany. When a mere lad, Don Francis escaped from Madrid to control the Mexican insurrection, and had actually embarked at Cadiz for the New World when he was arrested. He afterwards married the Princess Charlotte of Naples, who stood so much in the way of M. Guizot during the negotiations on the Spanish marriages. Don Henry inherited the independent character of both his parents. He and Don Francisco were brought up in the Lycée Henry IV., along with the sons of Louis Philippe. His father and mother intended to have married him to Isabella. But Louis Philippe caused him to be set aside for Francisco. Having been personally acquainted with the deceased Prince, I do not write about him on mere hearsay. I never met a man who struggled so hard against the vices of hereditary organisation. His intellect seconded his aspirations very imperfectly. Though far from stupid, he used to say, with some truth, of his brain, that it was like wet timber, which none of his sacred fire could light up into a blaze, or even into a dull constant fire. He frequently betrayed a painful consciousness of those mental imperfections which he said were the penalty Royal families pay to Nature for emancipating them from the ordinary conditions of humanity. When he found himself in the company of intellectual men, he hardly opened his lips to speak. Last summer I remember meeting him at a joyous dinner, at which were General Klapka, James Fazy, a renowned dramatic author, a French wit, and some celebrated Socialists. Everyone laughed and talked and argued except Don Henry. Somebody asked him why he did not also throw his idea into the current of general circulation. 'Alas!' he said, 'it would be presumption for me, born as I was, to speak before those whose ancestors won for them the capacity to think like men.' In pursuance of his Republican ideas he was very desirous, shortly before he last left Paris, of finding an American wife. His friends were negotiating a marriage between him and a great Western heiress when he left suddenly for Madrid last summer. Before leaving Paris the Prince called upon



THE LATE DON HENRY DE BOURBON.

a Boston lady who had promised to make up the match, and said, putting his finger on his forehead, 'Miss—must not refuse any other offer for me, for I have a presentiment that before very long a bullet will cure the fevers of this poor ardent brain. I am so convinced that a violent death stares me in the face, as to beg you will transfer your friendship to my poor little girl, whom I have been obliged to leave in a convent in the Faubourg St. Germain.'

CARLISM IN SPAIN.

ATTEMPTED RISING IN CATALONIA.

THE rancorous animosities excited against the Government of

Serrano by the Spanish clergy have led to some deplorable scenes, one of which is represented in our Engraving. Like the high and dry Legitimists of France, who are convinced that the Second Empire has no existence—that no Republic was proclaimed in 1848, that Louis Philippe was never on the throne, that Louis XVIII. ruled during the period usually assigned to Napoleon I., and in fact that this year 1870 is the thirty-sixth of the reign of Henry V.—the Spanish priests admit no legitimate authority but that of the grandson of Ferdinand VII.

At Cataluyud, a little town in the province of Saragossa, a priest rushed out of the church, carrying a crucifix in one hand and a skull in the other, and flung himself into the midst of the mêlée between the Carlists and the Liberals, which had already been sharp and sanguinary enough to leave some severely wounded partisans on the ground. The same fanatical priest, who is named Paulino, has also presented himself in a similar theatrical style before the College of Correa, where he has been haranguing his weak-headed followers, and inciting them against the Liberals, though their enthusiasm quailed considerably on the appearance of a strong detachment of the civic guard and several soldiers of the regular army. A request has been made for a more efficient detachment of troops, and the Government declares that priests and bishops will be held as amenable as the laity to the laws for preserving order.

RECRUITING CARLIST SOLDIERS IN THE FRENCH PYRENEES.

The arrest of Don Carlos has not by any means put an end to the efforts of his partisans, for the enlistment of volunteers is still diligently practised on the frontier; and in order to escape the surveillance of the Spanish authorities, the Carlist chiefs have actually concluded arrangements with the Mayors of several communes on the French border to open recruiting-places in their villages. Our Engraving is taken from a sketch of one of these places where the ferment was at its height and the excitement kindled by the splendid promises of the officers and the benedictions and indulgences of the priests attached to the regiments were successful in attracting a number of men to fight for the desperate cause. Having signed and sworn, the volunteer is furnished with arms and sent to join the main body of the force in the mountains, where the Carlist regiments are bivouacking, quite close to the frontier, in order to render more easy a retreat, which even the supporters of the cause regard as highly probable.

TERRIBLE COLLISION IN THE CHANNEL AND LOSS OF LIFE.

THE London and South-Western Company's steamer *Normandy*, Captain Harvey, left Southampton, on the night of the 16th inst., for the Channel Islands, at about twelve o'clock. At four a.m., thirty miles from the Needles, the screw-steamer *Mary*, bound from the Danube to Grimsby, ran stem on into the *Normandy*, during a very thick fog. She struck the *Normandy* abaft the midship section, cutting her down to the water's edge; and the after cabins



ATTEMPTED CARLIST RISING AT CATALUYUD, CATALONIA, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE PRIESTS.

and hold filled immediately. The life-boats and bulwarks were all cut away, leaving but two other boats, by which eleven lady passengers, seven gentlemen, the second mate, the stewardess, and eleven of the crew were saved. Captain Harvey considered his ship so damaged and in such a dangerous condition and sinking state that he called to the Mary to send her boats to him to help to save his passengers and crew, at the same time giving orders to man his two boats and save all his lady and other passengers first. He exhibited the greatest composure, directing the movement of the ship's engines and helm with the view to keep her head to sea, and was last seen on the bridge at his post and his chief mate acting with him. About twenty minutes after the two boats left the Normandy they heard a loud cry from many voices, and soon after fell in with numerous articles, proving that she had gone down. The boats pulled about for upwards of two hours in the hope of saving life, but without success. Those lost are—Captain Harvey, the chief mate, the chief and second engineers, three sailors, seven firemen and carpenter, three first-class gentlemen passengers, four second-class lady passengers, and ten deck passengers. When the two boats were pulling from the Normandy to the Mary, they met the life-boat of the latter ship in charge of the second mate; he was urged to pull hard for the Normandy, as she was sinking; instead of which he pulled back to the Mary and asked for orders, when his captain replied, "You have my orders; proceed immediately for the wreck." And had he done so in the first place, it is thought that most, if not all, of those lost would have been saved. The bows and cutwater of the Mary have been carried away to the water's edge, and she had to throw a portion of her cargo overboard, and was compelled to keep the pumps going to avoid sinking. The crew state that she was only going three knots, and the Normandy twelve knots, an hour at the time of the collision.

A town meeting was held at Southampton on Wednesday, when upwards of £500 was subscribed towards relieving the widows and orphans of the crew of the mail-steamer Normandy, lately run down in the Channel.

MUSIC.

MR. SIMS REEVES gave a concert in St. James's Hall, on Friday week, and, the occasion being of a special character, owing to our great tenor's proposed visit to Italy, the audience was very large. Mr. Reeves is, to all appearance, as great a favourite as ever; for no favourite could have a more enthusiastic reception or a more hearty "God-speed." He sang four well-known songs—"Deeper and deeper still," "Adelaida," "My Pretty Jane," and "Tom Bowling." These have long been in his repertory; and it will be enough to say that each was given in Mr. Reeves's own inimitable style. Both the ballads were encored; and "Good-by, sweetheart," was substituted for "Tom Bowling." Other songs were sung by Miss. Carola, Miss Stephens, and Mr. Chaplin Henry. Mr. Leslie's choir did good service with some admirable part-music; and Madame Norman-Néruda and Herr Coenen each contributed two solos on their respective instruments. We understand that Mr. Reeves will reside in Italy till the summer; but anyhow, a welcome awaits his return.

An overture by the late Hector Berlioz, called "Les Francs Juges," was in last Saturday's Crystal Palace programme. It is a wild and vague attempt to musically illustrate the doings of certain secret tribunals of the Middle Ages. Of course, the music needs the resources of a large orchestra, and is among the noisiest of the noisy. Of course, also, it is very clever; but farther than this our praise cannot go. M. Berlioz was a man with a theory, and, like most others similarly incumbered, he became a bit of a bore. The best course to adopt with his portentous noise-pictures is to let them drop into oblivion. Haydn's symphony in C (letter R) was played for the first time under Mr. Mann's direction, and delighted everybody present with its beautiful melodies and ingenious treatment. The andante was specially admired; not without good cause. Intelligible to the dullest, it charmed the most cultivated. Such is always the power possessed by genuine tune. The Crystal Palace choir failed in Beethoven's "Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage," so as to present the work in no very favourable light to those previously unacquainted with it. But amends were made in Mendelssohn's "Walpurgis Night," all the choruses of which were well given; as, moreover, were the solos by Miss Eton, Mr. Cummings, and Mr. Lewis Thomas. The latter gentleman invariably sings the music of the Druid priest in a satisfactory manner. The miscellaneous vocal pieces call for no particular remark, save that they were well chosen and worthy of the rest of the programme.

Among the works played at the Popular Concert of Monday last was Beethoven's quartet in B flat (op. 131), third of the five posthumous works of its class. Much of it still remains unintelligible, even to those who labour hardest at the task of comprehending Beethoven's later utterances. But there are entire movements not at all of an abstruse character—the "Alta Danza Tedesca," for example, to say nothing of the adagio and finale. These can be enjoyed, and were enjoyed, on Monday, in a special degree, thanks to a performance of uncommon merit. Herr Joachim is never more in his element than when leading a "posthumous" quartet; and on this occasion he played divinely. Schubert's sonata in A minor—a work known to most amateur pianists of classical tastes—was given by Madame Schumann, in her usual vigorous and decided style. The artist was much applauded after the performance with variations—music which can never be heard so performed without rare satisfaction. Mendelssohn's posthumous andante and scherzo for a quartet of strings afforded another treat; the latter movement—one of Mendelssohn's characteristic effusions in the "fairy style"—being encored by unanimous desire. Both movements were admirably played, but the scherzo was simply irresistible. Beethoven's trio in C minor (repeated by request) closed the concert. The vocalist was Mr. Cummings, who, in songs by Schubert and Smart, obtained a marked success.

Mr. W. Coenen gave the first of a series of concerts devoted to modern chamber music, in the Hanover-square Rooms, on Tuesday. He made up his programme on the Monday Popular model, and selected, among other things, a trio for piano, violin, and violoncello, by Herr Raff; and a string quartet by Herr Max Bruch. These were the best works played, yet these were intolerably wearisome. They made the usual pretence of depth and "intellectuality;" but only here and there could a pleasant idea either of melody or treatment be found. Clearly, the English public have been left behind by the German progressives who admire such effusions. Let us hope that the English public will always keep behind. The one redeeming feature of this concert was the singing of Miss Sinclair, a young lady new to us, and gifted with a beautiful soprano voice, which she uses like an artist. It strikes us that we shall soon hear more of Miss Sinclair.

On Wednesday the new Philharmonic Society began its nineteenth season with a concert, on the usual scale of magnitude, in St. James's Hall. The large orchestra of this society, directed by Dr. Wylde, was heard to advantage in Beethoven's symphony No. 8, and in the overtures to "Rosamunde" (Schubert) and "Die Abenceragen" (Cherubini). The works themselves call for no remarks in addition to those so often made on previous occasions. Herr Joachim gave a masterly rendering of Spohr's seventh violin concerto, and made a great sensation by playing the slow movement with marvellous depth of feeling. Madame Schumann, on her part, was scarcely less successful, if we may judge by applause, in Beethoven's pianoforte concerto in C minor. Here, again, the slow movement proved most effective, and with good reason. Music more impressive and more beautiful in its impressiveness does not exist. We may pass Herr Joachim's performance of "Le Trille du Diable" and Madame Sherrington's songs with bare mention.

On Thursday Mr. Henry Leslie gave his second concert in St. James's Hall, and Mr. R. Blagrove gave his third concert in the Hall of St. George. Last night Beethoven's great mass in D was performed by the Sacred Harmonic Society. Of these events next week.

PARLIAMENTARY AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

THE following are the principal portions of the Report of the Committee on Parliamentary and Municipal Elections, which was presented to Parliament last week:—

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

It has been proved to your Committee that in many boroughs great corruption prevails at municipal elections. In some boroughs it appears that a considerable class of voters will not vote unless they are paid; and the fact that the power at the election is mainly in the hands of such persons prevents respectable persons from becoming candidates, or taking part in the voting. Treating is also practised at municipal elections to a great extent. In some instances the bribery takes the form of payment by drink-tickets instead of money; and more frequently the election is accompanied by an amount of drinking which is described as demoralising to the town.

Other corrupt practices prevail; but apparently to a minor extent. Serious rioting frequently takes place on the polling day, and there is evidence to show that intimidation of individual voters is practised. In some cases the corrupt influences which are at work in a municipal election are made use of with a view of influencing the Parliamentary elections, which, in the case of the last general election, followed the former almost immediately. In most cases, however, party spirit on local questions appears sufficient to cause an extensive use of corrupt practices. Although the educated and respectable inhabitants would gladly see measures adopted which would put a stop to these practices, they take no active steps for this purpose.

Suggestions have been made for remedying these evils. 1. By the enactment of some more simple form of procedure for the recovery of penalties. 2. By the appointment of a special officer charged with the prosecution of these offences. 3. By the assimilation of the law relating to the avoidance of municipal elections, on account of corrupt practices, to that now affecting the trial of Parliamentary election petitions. 4. By the adoption of secret voting.

The attention of your Committee has been directed to the insufficient means afforded by the law for the detection or punishment of corrupt practices at municipal elections. Bribery at such elections is punishable as a misdemeanour at common law, and a person thereat guilty of bribery, treating, or undue influence, can also be proceeded against in the county court, and a penalty of 40s. recovered for each offence. It was established by many witnesses that proceedings by indictment to punish bribery are most infrequent, while actions under the Act 22 Vict., cap. 35, are but rarely brought.

It was still more strongly pressed upon your Committee that the present law for the avoidance of municipal elections procured by corrupt practices is insufficient and ineffective. No special tribunal for determining the validity of such elections exists, and the only means of testing a return is by *quo warranto* in the Court of Queen's Bench. It is believed that no municipal election has ever been sought to be invalidated on the ground of the existence of corrupt practices by this proceeding, while the great expense, the delays, and the fact that ultimately the validity of every vote recorded might have to be determined by a jury, render it practically impossible that this mode of avoiding municipal elections will ever be resorted to.

With regard to the first of the above suggestions, it is difficult to find any more simple or more inexpensive tribunal before which cases should be tried than the county court. As to the second, the difficulty of obtaining evidence, on account of the unpopularity attaching to the raking up of charges made in the excitement of an election when that excitement had passed away, would not be diminished by the appointment of such an officer; and as his costs would fall upon the borough, the unpopularity of any party coming forward to give evidence would be increased. We cannot, therefore, recommend such an appointment. We recommend that the third suggestion should be carried into effect; but it probably would be deemed unnecessary that municipal petitions should be tried before a Judge of the superior courts. As to the fourth, we reserve our observations to a later period of our report.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN BOROUGHES.

With regard to Parliamentary elections in boroughs, your Committee have examined many witnesses; but the evidence does not more than confirm what has been frequently established before Committees of the House, Royal Commissions, and the Judges who have been engaged in the trial of election petitions. The returns in the appendix to the report of the Select Committee on Parliamentary and Municipal Elections in the last Session of Parliament show that both in former and in the last elections various corrupt practices, of which bribery and treating were the chief, have prevailed, and to such an extent as to invalidate many elections; and it cannot be supposed that either now or formerly have the whole of such practices been brought to light. It has been proved that in some instances rioting and violence to person and property have occurred on the nomination and polling days so as to interfere with the freedom of the election, while in a much larger class of cases elections are accompanied by drunkenness and disorder.

It is difficult to arrive at the truth of the allegations of intimidation of workmen by masters, of tenants by landlords, of tradesmen by customers, and of working men by each other. This also applies to intimidation by ministers of religion. That intimidation in these forms is not extensively practised in a mode capable of legal proof is evident from the rarity of cases in which a return has been set aside on this ground. But that it is practised, though in a manner difficult of proof before a legal tribunal, cannot be doubted. We have examined many witnesses who have alleged the existence of intimidation of each kind above described. As soon as this evidence has become known in the locality, applications have been received that witnesses on the other side should be examined, who have denied the charges brought against themselves, but have usually attributed similar practices to their opponents. It is certain, at least, that, whether intimidation is extensively practised or not, the fear of it widely prevails among that class of voters who are liable to its influence. There exists during the canvass in most boroughs a system of working upon voters through private considerations, whether of interest, hope, or fear, for political purposes, and this system enables undue influence in a modified form to be constantly practised.

COUNTY ELECTIONS.

Your Committee have had much less evidence relating to county elections. The returns above referred to show that, as compared with borough elections, a very small number have been called in question before Committees or the Judges. This fact proves, in our opinion, that they have been in the main free from bribery.

It is, however, alleged that intimidation and undue influence are very largely practised in county elections, and evidence from Wales and Scotland, to the effect that tenants have been actually turned out of their farms on account of their votes, has been brought before us to substantiate the allegation. It is difficult for a Committee examining witnesses not upon oath, and without the services of any persons who act in the character of counsel for the prosecution or defence, to form an opinion worth much on disputed matters of fact; and contradictions more or less specific have generally been advanced against the charges which have been made. In some instances the allegations have not been contradicted. We have endeavoured to investigate some of these cases, but found ourselves involved in inquiries which unduly protracted our proceedings, and for the reasons mentioned above, were not altogether satisfactory. It is certain, however, that an influence exceeding, in a greater or less degree, the legitimate influence which a popular and respected landlord must always exercise in his neighbourhood is often brought to bear on tenant-farmers and other voters in agricultural districts. The agent frequently holds language which the landlord would shrink from using, but which the latter does not think it necessary to disown.

An instance was given where tenants who had signed a petition to a candidate allied with their landlord against the candidate; another, where no tenant on the estate would promote the same candidate a vote until they had received an assurance from their landlord that they might vote as they pleased, on receiving which they all both promised and voted for the candidate opposed to the landlord's politics. The inducement to vote with the landlord may frequently proceed rather from the hope of future advantages to be conferred than from the fear of injury to be inflicted; but, of whichever character the inducement may be, we think that the influence so exercised comes under the description of undue influence, and as such ought, if possible, to be checked.

The Committee go on to remark on the distinguishing features of elections in England, Scotland, and Ireland. In Scotland bribery is almost unknown. This fact is attributed partly to the better education of the Scotch, and partly to the newness of most of the constituencies. Intimidation is alleged to exist in each of the three kingdoms. In Ireland the spiritual influence of the Roman priesthood and the terror inspired by organised mobs are used to intimidate the electors, and the Committee are convinced that in many Irish boroughs and counties there exists no real freedom of election.

The report next proceeds to the suggestions which have been made for improving the conduct of elections throughout the empire.

THE PROPOSED ABOLITION OF THE HUSTINGS.

The question of the abolition of the present system of nominations and declarations cannot, in our opinion, be treated as one. It appears to us that the declaration of the poll might be made as well in some other way; but as regards public nominations, there is much to be said in favour both of the retention and the discontinuance of the practice.

At some places of election, both in counties and boroughs, the addresses which are delivered are rendered inaudible by noise, tumult, and wilful interruptions; and occasionally serious disturbances, begun on the nomination day, are continued throughout the election. On the other hand, the abolition of the present system would, as it seems to us, tend to fetter the free choice of the electors, and would deprive a candidate of an opportunity of setting himself right with a constituency in the event of misstatements as to his opinions or his character; and it would make it extremely difficult to prevent the putting forward of persons as candidates for mere purposes of annoyance, or the fraudulent withdrawal of others who were in favour with the electors. Again, it must not be forgotten that in the majority of cases proceedings at nominations are conducted in an orderly manner and without any attendant evils, and that in the case of an uncontested election the whole proceedings are concluded and the return is made on the day of nomination.

The evidence of the majority of witnesses that have come before us is no doubt in favour of a change, but no practicable substitute has been proposed by any of them, nor has any suggested itself to ourselves, which, while removing existing causes of complaint, would preserve those advantages of the present system to which we have referred.

PAID AGENTS.

We do not think that it would be possible to prohibit absolutely the employment of paid agents for the purpose of an election, and there would be much difficulty in enforcing the prohibition of the use of paid canvassers. Although the employment of paid agency is sometimes carried to an unreasonable and improper extent, so as in some cases to assume a corrupt character, an election cannot always be conducted without paid agents of some kind.

PUBLIC-HOUSES.

We are of opinion that the use of rooms in public-houses for committee-rooms, for the purpose of an election, is a fruitful source of expense and of corruption, and should be forbidden by law. The closing of public-houses on the days of nomination, if it is to be conducted on the present system, and on the polling-day during the hours when the poll is opened, would tend to the tranquillity and purity of election. The witnesses whom we have examined have naturally looked upon the question almost entirely from this point of view; but we fear that the inconvenience to the public generally of such a measure would be so great as to outweigh its advantages.

ELECTION RIOTS.

We consider that at present the law relating to the recovery of compensation for damage done by riotous mobs to property is not in a satisfactory state, and that it is desirable to improve it, so as to enlist, as far as possible, the inhabitants of the district in the support of law and order.

PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.

We have received evidence to show that the present provision of the law which requires a return of the expenses of candidates is insufficient for its purpose, and fails in many cases to secure a full statement of such expenses; and we think that any payment made by a candidate or his agent on account of the election, and not included in the return of his election expenses, should be declared to be a corrupt payment within the meaning of the Corrupt Practices Act. And such return should include all expenses incurred by him or his agent on account of the election from the date at which he or his agent had publicly announced his intention to become a candidate.

THE BALLOT.

A few witnesses have recommended the system of voting-papers. Their chief recommendation is that the risk of riot on the polling-day would be diminished. In our opinion, they would tend to aggravate some of the evils of the present system by the facilities which they would give for bribery, for fraud, and for certain forms of intimidation. . . . Much evidence has been given by witnesses, not exclusively confined to any political party, to show that the discontinuance of open voting, and the substitution for it of secret voting, or vote by ballot, would be of great advantage in Parliamentary and municipal elections. . . . We have examined witnesses from Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, and have also received evidence as to the systems in use in France, Italy, and Greece. The effect of this evidence has been to prove that in these countries, under a system of ballot, the poll is taken without intimidation, riot, or disorder, while in Australia bribery and treating have been greatly reduced, and personal canvassing discouraged.

It remains to be considered whether it is desirable that the ballot should be adopted in this country.

The principal objections which have been advanced against the ballot as applied to our own elections are—that the act of voting is a public duty, and should involve a public responsibility; that it would lead to hypocrisy and deception; that it would do little to restrain the practice of treating; that it would increase bribery by making it more difficult to detect; that it would be wholly inoperative in the case of spiritual intimidation, such as that which is alleged to exist so extensively in Ireland; that it would afford facilities for peroration.

While we admit that there is force in many of these objections, we are, on the whole, of opinion that the ballot possesses many great advantages, and that the weight of evidence leads to the conclusion that this change in the mode of voting would not only promote the tranquillity both of municipal and Parliamentary elections, but will also protect voters from undue influence and intimidation, and introduce into elections a greater degree of freedom and purity than is secured under the present system. But, in recommending the adoption of the ballot, we desire to express our opinion that, in order to secure the benefits we anticipate from its introduction into this country, it is necessary that the secrecy of the vote should be inviolable, except in the case of any voter who is found guilty of bribery, or whose vote, in due course of law, has been adjudged invalid.

We have referred above to the extensive employment of troops at Irish elections. It could not be safely discontinued under the

present system; but we must express our conviction that no freedom of election can exist where so large a part in the proceedings is taken by a military force. In our opinion, the ballot offers the only means by which the practice might effectually be put an end to; but, under any circumstances, we are of opinion that the employment of the civil and military forces of the country should be confined to keeping order and preserving the public peace, and that care should be taken that neither the constabulary nor the military should be employed in escorting voters other than those who willingly place themselves under their protection.

BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE.

BAKER V. PERRY.—BUSINESS-LIKE LOVERS.
This case was tried at Taunton, on Wednesday, before Mr. Justice Hannen and a jury. Mr. Prideaux, Q.C., and Mr. Bompas were counsel for the plaintiff; and Mr. Cole, Q.C., and Mr. Murch for the defendant. Mr. Prideaux, in opening the case, said that the plaintiff was fifty years of age, and was the daughter of a widow lady keeping a lodging-house at Weston-super-Mare, and defendant was a house and insurance agent in the same town, and was seventy years of age. In the month of June, 1869, the plaintiff went to defendant to see him respecting the letting of a house belonging to a friend. The next morning she received a letter from the defendant, stating that he had been extremely struck by her appearance, and desired to make her his wife, and he expected that the lady whom he married would bring him £40 or £50 a year. She replied to him that neither her mother nor herself had any means, and that whoever married her would have to maintain her. The defendant wrote to her on June 14, thanking her for her straightforward and open letter, and saying that he was sorely vexed that she could not comply with his conditions. He said his dear, dear wife had been dead eighteen months. He had got as comfortable a home as any in Weston; that he had only a daughter and a grandson with him, and he wanted No. 4 to complete his happiness (Laughter). In this letter he also stated that he had £2800 personal property. A correspondence ensued between the parties, and he submitted to her the documents relating to his property.

My dear H. Baker.—I promised to inclose postage-stamps, but forgot it; you will forgive me. Don't forget me. I must hear from you twice a week, so long as we correspond with each other. The sooner the correspondence is over, and we are united in marriage, the better. Run up again John Cox, Esq., this morning, and satisfied with respectability, of self, mother, and family. . . . Think it over. You will be relieved from the drudgery of a lodging-house, and made happy and comfortable, and a servant to wait on you. Decide to marry me. We can fix time and place. Don't put it off too long.—Your dear H.—WM. PERRY.

The learned counsel explained that the reference to the postage-stamps was that he had promised to send the plaintiff some to return the documents relating to his property which he had sent for her inspection. The defendant subsequently wrote—

Dear Miss Baker,—Madam, with pleasure I read your kind letter this morning. I am happy to inform you I feel well. It appears that we have been both open and candid as to our affairs, and we are perfectly satisfied. . . . I will wait the three months you name, say not later than the middle of October, for our marriage. I should like you to write to me, and finally decide to marry me on or before the middle of October. We know enough of each other, although our acquaintance is short. Providence so ordered that you was to come and see me on Miss Rawley's business. I have always believed in God's ordering and an overruling Providence. . . . I shall not be guided as to marriage by my children. I am free to do as I like. I have provided well for them. . . . I have lost four daughters in consumption, 17, 18, 27, and 30 years of age. I am afraid my dear only daughter is consumptive; if so, she may die, and then I shall nominate you to receive her £3000 insurance. I shall have no one on earth to take care of me if I lose my dear, dear daughter, but you. I am confident, my dear, you will be a kind and affectionate wife to me. If my daughter survive me my furniture will be hers; if not, it will very likely be yours. . . . I am, dear Miss H. Baker, very faithfully yours, WM. PERRY.

In another letter the defendant wrote to her, saying that she had relieved him somewhat, as he was to see her to-morrow, and they could embrace each other. Referring to a rumour that the plaintiff had said he was an old fool, he said, "The mean, dirty, lying scandal sent to me by some wicked, low persons has only riveted my affections to you tenfold, knowing that you could not be guilty of such words to one you loved so dearly. The scoundrel or bad woman who have concocted it had done so to try and separate us. Ear h, or all the fiends of hell, will never separate us (Laughter). I had no sleep to night on your account. I am afraid you will feel it acutely. You will be seriously ill. Let me beg of you to treat the wicked parties with contempt." The defendant went on to refer to his expressed intention of settling £1000 upon the plaintiff when they were married, and suggested that she should accompany him to his solicitor, Mr. Rossiter, of Taunton, for the purpose of making the settlement.

Mr. Prideaux proceeded to read other correspondence. On June 22 defendant addressed the plaintiff as his "darling dear," and said he could not consent to her leaving him for three weeks to go to Pembroke to see her sister; but, if she went, and took him with her, he had no objection. He complained that they were driving off their marriage too long. The learned counsel said that the defendant kept pressing her to name an early day for the marriage. On July 9 he wrote:—

We are so united in love to one another nothing on earth will separate us. You will be soon out of that miserable unfortunate lodging-house. You was directed by God to see me at my villa (Laughter).—I am, my very dearest, I may say, my wife soon. WM. PERRY.

On the following day he wrote:—

My dearest H. B.—Here I am, day and night, almost alone. . . . I often think on you until I am quite bewildered. . . . It makes me uncomfortable to think our marriage day is more than a month off. . . . My dear, I long to embrace you in my folded arms (Laughter). I am, my dearest H. B., your ever affectionate husband soon to be, W. P. (Laughter.)

Mr. Prideaux next read a letter dated July 15, in which the defendant said,

Delay is dangerous, especially on your part; you are not safe for £1000 until you are my lawful wife, and my new will attested by me. If I drop before you your only friend and dear husband is gone, and you lose all. . . . Bring this before your mother seriously; go into as afore-said (Laughter). I will wait your own time. I am honest to you and cannot rest until my will is made and attested. I think something wrong is working with my family with Mr. Rossiter to put off my will.—My dearest H. B., yours ever faithfully, W. PERRY.

The day was subsequently fixed, a carriage ordered, and the defendant produced to the plaintiff the wedding-ring, which he wanted her to keep, but which she declined. He also produced the license, and suggested that a lady should write to the Rev. Mr. Hunt on Aug. 15. Two days before the marriage was to take place the defendant received a letter from his solicitor reminding him that he had not informed himself as to whether the plaintiff had contracted any debts; for, if so, by marrying her he would be responsible for the same. The defendant inclosed the letter to the plaintiff, and submitted certain proposals with a view to plaintiff's mother settling what property she possessed upon her, and that upon that being done he was willing to settle £500 on her for life. There was subsequently an interview, at which Mr. Rossiter, the solicitor, was present, and defendant said he was willing to marry her without making a settlement upon her; but Miss Baker said, "I cannot do that;" and turning round to Mr. Rossiter, said to him, "Would you suffer one of your daughters to marry without a provision?" He declined to answer beyond saying, "I am Mr. Perry's servant." Defendant went off in a huff, and in a very short time he married a Miss Hammond, who had an income of £50 a year.

The plaintiff, her mother, and a servant were called in support of her case, and Mr. Prideaux having summed up,

Mr. Cole addressed the jury, contending that it was purely a commercial transaction on the part of the plaintiff; that the defendant had offered to marry her, but when he declined to make a settlement she refused to marry him; and that, therefore, she had broken the contract.

The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff—damages £500.

Mr. Cole asked his Lordship to stay execution, on the ground of excessive damages, and his Lordship granted a fortnight's time.

POLICE.

FUN IN THE POLICE COURTS.—One or two incidents and observations of a humorous nature have occurred or been made at Bow-street recently, during the hearing of cases, which form a great contrast to the usual monotonous style so characteristic at law courts. A dissatisfied cabman complained to Mr. Flowers of a bad sixpence he had received from a fare. Mr. Flowers examined the coin, and, being apparently assured of its genuineness, said to the applicant, "Well, I will give you a good one for it, and settle the matter that way."

The cabman appeared perfectly content with this novel kind of redress, and left the court amidst laughter from some of the auditors. While a woman was making some rambling statement of the ill-usage she had suffered from a neighbour, a solicitor in the case observed that she was making an omnium gathrum kind of complaint. The woman turned round indignantly, and said to the magistrate, "No, your Worship; I never used no such words. I ain't given to bad language." On another occasion a decrepid and emaciated old woman was brought up for being drunk and disorderly. The constable who took her in charge deposed that she used bad language respecting the Queen and Royal family. The prisoner was fined 5s. for being drunk, and was informed that the "treason" was passed over that time. A woman named Emily Ward was charged at Westminster with assaulting John Burdett, a corporal in the Coldstream Guards. The corporal went with two men to the house where the defendant lived, to search for an absentee. The defendant was offended at the conduct of the men while making the search, and when they left the house she threw some dirty water over them from an upper window. The defendant said the soldiers insulted her. Mr. Selfe said that because the complainant was a Coldstream it was not to be tolerated that a cold stream should be thrown over him. Such conduct to the military in the discharge of that class of duty could not be tolerated; and he fined the defendant 20s. and costs, or, in default, ten days' imprisonment. She was locked up in default.

A COCKNEY "RAPPAEE."—At the Thames Police Court, on Tuesday, George Webb, a dock labourer, aged twenty-five years, was brought before Mr. Lushington, charged with violently assaulting Harriet and John Dodsworth. Mrs. Dodsworth is in business as a stationer and news-agent, of No. 30, Cannon-street-road, St. George-in-the-East. On Monday night the prisoner, who was intoxicated, entered the shop of the complainants, and announced that a benefit was to take place on his and his family's behalf, and produced a programme of the performance. He asked for a subscription, and that Mrs. Dodsworth would put her name down on the printed bill. She declined; on which the prisoner commenced abusing her and her son, and threatened to drown Mr. Dodsworth, jun., in the London Docks when he met him next morning. Mrs. Dodsworth ordered him to be gone, on which he struck her a violent blow on the eye, which blackened it, and knocked her out of the shop into the street. Mr. Dodsworth went to the rescue of his mother, and the prisoner threatened to strike him and his mother again. The prisoner aimed a blow at him, which he parried. Mr. Dodsworth, sen., also came in for a share of the prisoner's abuse. The fellow was given into the custody of Jackson, a police constable, No. 31 H, who had much trouble with him. Mr. Lushington said it was a most impudent proceeding for a man to wait upon respectable persons while he was in a state of intoxication and demand alms, and, when his importunities were refused, to strike them. He sentenced the prisoner to two months' imprisonment and hard labour.

SPURIOUS TEA.—Mr. Under-Sheriff Baylis appeared before Mr. Alderman Stone, at Guildhall, on Monday, to conclude his application, on behalf of the Commissioners of Sewers, for the condemnation of six chests of "Moning tea," which had been seized by Dr. Letheby's order, as being unsound, unwholesome, and unfit for the food of man. Mr. Waller attended on behalf of the owners of the tea, and Mr. Besley (barrister) watched the case on behalf of the wharfingers. Dr. Letheby was recalled, and said he had made a further analysis of the six samples of the tea in question, and found that when he had thoroughly exhausted them by

the repeated action of boiling water, the proportion of soluble matter in them amounted to from a little more than 11 per cent to 13½ per cent. That extracted from good ordinary common congou ranged from 22½ to 27½ per cent. Again, the ligneous or woody matter of the tea ranged from 73 per cent to a little more than 77 per cent. The woody matter of coarse ordinary congou ranged, according to his experiments, from 55½ to 65 per cent. The proportion of the active principle of tea amounted to a mere trace—a fraction that was not weighable; whereas in ordinary congou it would amount to about 2 per cent. Those results confirmed the opinion he gave at the last hearing—viz., that it consisted of exhausted leaves almost entirely, there being a little good tea mixed with it. He was of opinion that it was unsound and unwholesome, for it was not merely an exhausted but a decayed tea. He thought it would be very likely to produce derangement of the stomach. Mr. J. N. Vinen said he resided in Church-street, Southwark, and was medical officer of health for that district. He had infused portions of the samples of that tea, and they had not the peculiar aroma of ordinary sound teas. He found in them some dirty-looking masses, which did not appear to be tea, and were not soluble in water. The infusion he made produced a very weak tea, with a sickening smell. He said it was unsound, unwholesome, and unfit for food. Poor people were glad to get partly-exhausted leaves and make weak tea from them, but not after they had become putrid. He agreed with Dr. Letheby that that tea would be injurious to the human frame. The foreign matter he saw in it appeared to him to be insoluble, and therefore could not be taken up in the water and could not get into the human frame. He had analysed it, and had not found anything poisonous in it. There was very little doubt it was dried tea-leaves. Mr. John Stenhouse, F.R.A., Professor of Chemistry at St. Thomas's Hospital, and others, gave corroborative evidence. Mr. Waller, having addressed the jury for the defence, called Mr. Theophilus Redwood, Professor of Chemistry to the Pharmaceutical Society, who said he did not think the tea unfit for human food. Alderman Stone said the preponderance of evidence as to the tea being unsound, unwholesome, and unfit for human food was in favour of the complainant, and he should make the order for its destruction, but would restrain its operation until an appeal had been made to the Court of Queen's Bench and the decision of that Court was known. Mr. Besley then called the attention of the Court to the proprietors of Nicholson's wharf, who had been most unjustly assailed for giving up the tea, when it was out of their power to help themselves. They had given their warrants, and were bound to acknowledge them when they were presented. Alderman Stone said he thought they were fully exonerated on the last occasion. Mr. Baylis said he thought so too, because he stated that he never intended to impute anything to them. Mr. Besley said the owner of the tea was threatening them with an action for the six chests.

A COURAGEOUS SERVANT-GIRL.—A man named John Johnson was brought before the Brentford bench of magistrates, on Monday, charged with stealing a cloth cape and a wrapper from the house of Mr. Millard, Ivy Lodge, Isleworth. Elizabeth Sherwood, a servant in the employ of Mr. Millard, said that the prisoner came to the house on Saturday evening, and handed her a letter to take to her master. Having her suspicions, she gave the letter to another servant, and, returning to the hall, saw the prisoner, with the cape and wrapper under his arm, leaving the house. Witness seized him by the collar and pulled him back. Her master then came and took charge of him, and sent witness for a policeman; but while she was gone prisoner managed to escape from Mr. Millard. Witness then ran down the Twickenham-road, and overtook the prisoner, whom she gave into custody. Prisoner had dropped the articles he had stolen outside the front door, when witness first caught hold of him. The prisoner, who feigned deafness, was remanded.

CHARGE OF ASSAULT AGAINST A SCHOOLMASTER.—Thomas Bradbury, master of a national school on Southall-green, was last Saturday summoned before the Brentford bench of magistrates for assaulting Ann Hall, aged eleven years, with a cane. The little girl stated her case, from which it appeared that on Wednesday, because she could not say a sum, defendant gave her several blows on the back with a heavy cane, causing her great pain. On reaching home she communicated the fact to her mother, a very intelligent woman, who said that she had no objection to her child being punished if she did wrong, but that she considered defendant had chastised her child with undue severity; and as this was not the first time she had reason to complain (defendant, besides beating her, having once smacked her face and caused it to bleed), she had determined to bring the case before the magistrates. Defendant's answer to the charge was that he had no less than 170 children of both sexes to manage in five classes, and, finding that several of the children had determined to set his wife at defiance, he went to her aid, and, as the complainant deliberately refused to write down thirty on the slate, he dealt her two or three blows on the back with a light cane. At this juncture the Bench requested the mother to bare the child's back, and, on doing so, it presented a number of marks which the Bench observed, was far too great punishment to administer to a girl; and Mr. Hogarth, one of the magistrates, inquired whether defendant was permitted to beat girls of tender years. Defendant replied that he was permitted to inflict corporal punishment, but did not often do so. If he did nothing to the children, some of the bigger boys had sufficient daring to pull his nose; and if he chastised them he was liable to be brought to judgment by every mother who thought her child had been wronged. The chairman observed that he did not wish it for a moment to go forth to the world that the Bench objected to punishment in schools, as without proper chastisement there would be no order. It was clear, however, that in this case the defendant had overstepped the bounds of propriety, and, losing his temper, had punished a tender girl with considerable severity. His notion of mixed schools always had been that they were managed by women. Defendant said he had full power vested in him to manage the school, and

need not have his wife in it at all unless he liked. The Bench would not have heard of this prosecution had not the mother been incited to it by the vetry. The mother declared that she had brought the case forward of her own free will, and the Bench observed they were surprised to find that the management of any school permitted a master to beat girls of tender years with a cane; a woman was the proper person. On defendant continuing to argue the matter in an insolent tone, the Chairman exclaimed indignantly—"The Bench were disposed, Sir, to grant you every indulgence in this matter, but since you argue the matter in such a tone, allow me to tell you that if Mr. Llanfair permits a great, big fellow like you to knock little girls about like this, he manages his school most improperly. You are fined 20s., and 1s. costs. Defendant, who had over and over again interrupted the Bench in their remarks, said—"I shall appeal. We are determined to fight it out. This is part of a system of opposition we have been subjected to." The chairman—"We were at first disposed to think that you had merely carried out your duty somewhat severely, but your wife having been in the room at the time you beat this child leaves you no defence. You have shown yourself by your conduct here to-day to be thoroughly incompetent to have charge of children." The defendant paid no heed to these remarks, but left the court exclaiming, "We'll fight it out."

ST. PANCRA'S INFIRMARY AGAIN.—An inquest was held, on Monday night, by Dr. Lankester, respecting the death of a young woman, aged nineteen, named Hannah Alcock, in the St. Pancras Infirmary. She was formerly in the service of Sir Robert Lush, but was obliged to leave through illness; and had since been in St. Bartholomew's Hospital and in the Convalescent Home at Waltham Abbey. Shortly after leaving the latter place she became much worse, and on the 14th inst. was admitted into the St. Pancras Infirmary, where she died on the 17th. She was suffering from consumption, and could not eat the food given her, and, at her earnest request, the doctor ordered her some brandy; but, although this order was given at ten in the morning, she did not get the brandy till six in the evening. It appeared from the evidence that the practice in the infirmary is for the doctor to order the dietary for the sick people twenty-four hours in advance, and it was only by a special order that the poor girl got the brandy so soon as she did. The following morning she died. The Coroner said that if patients were ill enough to want brandy they wanted it at once, and should have it. They seemed to be able to get at their medicine freely enough and occasionally poison themselves, but it was a different matter when they wanted anything. "There seems," he added, "to be always some mistake in this wretched place, and yet the guardians say the inquests are held unnecessarily." The jury found the following verdict:—"We find that Hannah Alcock died from natural causes; but the jury are of opinion that the deceased ought not to have been kept for eight hours without a stimulant which had been ordered to be taken immediately."

COMPANY "FINANCEREING."—A judgment, strongly condemnatory of some of the transactions between the Marseilles Land Company and the National Bank, was delivered last Saturday by Vice-Chancellor Malins. The official liquidators of the former sought to recover from the bank and three of its own directors (Sir J. N. McKenna; Mr. Harvey Lewis, M.P.; and Mr. F. B. Henshaw) a sum of £5000 alleged to have been improperly paid as commission when the account of the Land Company was opened with the bank. Some of the directors, besides being connected with both concerns, were also on the board of the Credit Foncier, and it was contended that the £5000 in question was part of the sum divided for promoting the Land Company. On the other hand, the case set up by the bank was that the money was paid to them by the Credit Foncier as a compensation for taking an unusually troublesome account. The Vice-Chancellor said that the facts brought out in this case were more creditable to the persons engaged than anything which had ever come before him in the course of his professional life. That the money was directly or indirectly paid by the Land Company there was no doubt, but it was really handed over under the cheque of the Credit Foncier. He therefore regretted that he could make no order for restitution, but he believed that if a bill were filed, it could be proved that the money belonged to the Land Company, and was paid by them to the National Bank.

A HINT TO ADULTERATORS.—We read in an American newspaper the following letter from a Yankee to her grocer:—"Mr. Tuttle,—This here thing has got too much hemp in it for molasses, and not quite enough for clothes lines; so I've strained off the molasses, and send you the jug to make up the measure, and have turned over the hemp to the Vigilance Committee to be spun up for future use. So be sure to send me the real thing this time, as all hemp goes to the V. C., and the rope is agrowing."

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—J. F. GORINGE, Wellington Farm, Asperia, cattle-dealer.
BANKRUPT.—A. BROWN, Old Kent-road, corn and hay dealer.
BANKRUPT.—A. ATTENBOROUGH, jun., and A. J. HOOPER, St. Mary-axe, leather, bark, and hide factors.—T. A. LANGDON, Salisbury-court, Fleet-street, licensed victualler.—F. BURCHALL, Castle Bytham, blacksmith.—M. BRETHERTON, Birmingham, liveried carriage keeper.—W. J. COCKELL, Battersea, builder.—J. DICKINSON, H. Hildersfield, brassfounder.—J. W. and E. J. EDGAR, Croydon.—T. EDWARDS and S. H. HODGES, Bristol, boot and shoe manufacturers.—A. M. GRHAM, New Barnes, brickmaker.—S. HODGES, Bristol, boot and shoe manufacturer.—A. SMITH, Freshwater, inkkeeper.—J. J. HOLLOWAY, Birmingham, bootmaker.—E. J. WHITE, Bristol, cabinet-maker.—A. H. BELCHER, Arundel-street, Strand, clock in orders.—J. PRESTON, dog-sley, boiler-maker.
SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. RICHMOND, Glasgow, cabinet-maker.—J. RIDD, Sterling, merchant.—J. F. WATSON, Edinburgh, paper manufacturer.—J. ROUGHTON and D. SPIN, Ayr, upholsterers.—J. HAMILTON, Glasgow, boot and shoe maker.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—H. GARDNER, Bury St. Edmunds, inkkeeper.
BANKRUPT.—R. M. STARR, Finsbury-square, commission agent.—J. WYATT, Strand, eating-house keeper.—J. GRAYSON, Bradford, worsted manufacturer.—T. BRISSENDEN, Tipton, coal-dealer.—K. FOTHERS, Manchester, milliner.—T. and G. P. & B. Birmingham, ironfounders.—T. RICALTON, Falmouth, assistant paymaster.—R. ROSS, Poole, inkkeeper.—S. FLIMMON, Canterbury, fishmonger.
SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—Rev. S. FRASER, Fortrose, J. CLARK, Drums, merchant.—J. CUMMING, Isle of Skye, hotel-keeper.—A. ROBERTSON, Birkenhead, line and coal merchant.—J. A. ROY, Irvine, builder.—R. F. WRIGHT, Edinburgh.

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4. "H. P. Hunt" and "Le Beau Temps."
5. Mr. R. A. Freeman on "The Origin of the English Nation."
6. Mr. W. J. Fox on "Smallest of Niles."
7. Blanche Tregulier.
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"I am half distracted, Captain Shandy," said Mrs. Wadman, holding up her emerald handkerchief to her left eye, as she approached the door of my Uncle Toby's study; "a note, or a word, or something, I know not what, has got into this eye of mine;—do look into it:—it is not in the white." Honest soul! thou didst look into it with as much innocence of heart as ever child looked into a rare-show-box; and 'twere as much a sin to have hurt thee. I see him yonder, with his pipe pendulous in his hand, and the salt falling out of it,—looking,—and looking,—then rubbing his eye,—and looking again, with twice the good nature that ever Galileo looked for a spot in the sun. In vain! for, by all the powers which animate the organs—Uncle Wadman's left eye shines this moment as lucid as her right—there is neither mote, nor sand, nor dust, nor chaff, nor speck, nor particle of opaque matter, floating in it. There is nothing, my dear paternal uncle! but one lambent delicious fire, furiously shooting out from every part of it. In all directions, into thine. If thou lookest, Uncle Toby, in search of this mote one moment longer, thou art undone!"—Tristram Shandy.
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made up and trimmed in the most correct taste, may be obtained at the most reasonable prices.
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DU BARRY'S DELICIOUS REVALENTA ARABICA FOOD eradicates Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Cough, Asthma, Consumption, Debility, Sleeplessness, Constipation, Flatulency, Phlegm, Low Spirits, Diarrhoea, Acidity, Diabetes, Nausea, and Vomiting, Wanting, Pallidness; Nervous, Bilious, and Liver Complaints. Cure No. 68, 113: "Rome.—The health of the Holy Father is excellent since he has taken Du Barry's Food, and his Holiness cannot praise this excellent food too highly."—Du Barry and Co., 77, Regent-st., London, W.; and 163, William-st., New York. 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